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A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Please see the answer to (*a*). I may inform the hon. Member however that the Government have decided that the proposed rule of communal rotation should not apply to the post of Assistant Secretary in the Government Secretariats.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I put a supplementary question to one of the questions previously answered ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Under what Standing Order ? "

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" According to the conventional practice that exists in this House."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am not aware of any such practice."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" If a Member is absent when his question is called, he is allowed the privilege of putting supplementary questions after all the questions on the order paper are disposed of."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is evidently not aware of the changes that have been introduced by me in the matter of putting questions. The rules were changed more than a year ago. I changed the rule with a view to discourage the absence of hon. Members when they have got questions, entered in the list, against their names. The hon. Member did not even intimate to me the reasons for his unavoidable absence from the Council at 11 o'clock."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I shall state now, Sir."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1929-30.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Council will now resume the general discussion on the budget."

Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" Mr. President, we are told that the opening balance for the budget year is Rs. 400·59 lakhs, that the revenue is Rs. 1,807·09 lakhs, and that the expenditure is Rs. 1,843·23 lakhs. Thus it would appear that the normal expenditure for the year is only Rs. 1,726·10 lakhs and that new proposals are being introduced in the budget to the extent of Rs. 117·13 lakhs. There is nothing to be said with regard to new proposals which were either recommended by this House or approved of by a resolution of the House. Some of the new proposals with regard to Public Health, Veterinary and Education are very desirable ones except where provisions are made for building purposes.

" I want to draw the attention of the House to the revenue and expenditure of previous years. In the year 1889-90 we had a revenue of Rs. 294 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 279 lakhs ; in the year 1899-1900—Rs. 317 lakhs revenue and 335 lakhs of rupees expenditure. In the year 1909-10 we had a revenue of Rs. 598 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 585 lakhs. In 1919-20, ten years after, we had a revenue of Rs. 954 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 959 lakhs.

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11-30 a.m. "Now, in the current year, as I have already submitted, the revenue is 1,807 lakhs and the expenditure is 1,847 lakhs. It will be seen from this that the expenditure has been growing as may be seen from these figures year by year. In 1920-21 it was only 1,174 lakhs; 1,309 lakhs in 1921-22; 1,296 lakhs in 1922-23; 1,318 lakhs in 1923-24; 1,352 lakhs in 1924-25; 1,416 lakhs in 1925-26; 1,582 lakhs in 1926-27; 1,558 lakhs in 1927-28; 1,747 lakhs in 1928-29 and 1,827 lakhs in 1929-30. These figures would show that during the last six years we had an increase in the expenditure to the extent of about 653 lakhs. That is nearly an increase of one crore during the past six years. The expenditure was steady during the years 1921-22, 1922-23 and 1923-24 and thereafter it went up by leaps and bounds. With regard to the expenditure we may compare the figures of other provinces and be profited by what is happening there. In Bengal with a population of 46 millions they have got only a revenue of 10 crores and an expenditure of 9 and odd crores: I am referring to the figures of 1927-28. With regard to the United Provinces with a population of 25 millions, which is three millions more than the population of this Presidency they have got only a revenue of nearly 13 crores; Bihar and Orissa with a population of 33 millions, the revenue is 567·42 lakhs and an expenditure of 600·46 lakhs. The above figures would show that we are the heaviest taxed people. Bengal as you know which has got the most fertile and rich lands with vast sources of irrigation also, with a population of four millions more than the population of our Presidency, they are collecting only 10½ crores and spending about 9 and odd crores, while our expenditure is 18½ crores.

"Then, with regard to Capital debt account, it is stated by the hon. the Finance Member that he wanted 185·28 lakhs, of which I would only refer to two or three items. For other irrigation and connected works, only 2 or 3 lakhs is provided; for industrial undertakings only 2 or 3 lakhs is provided and State-aid and miscellaneous 14·19 lakhs. With regard to irrigation works, it is a surprise to me that only 2 lakhs are going to be provided this year, when there is an amount of nearly 4 crores in the purse of the hon. the Finance Member. This is very much neglected. From year to year complaints are made in regard to this matter. How do we stand with regard to this question of irrigation. Capital outlay in 1926-27 was Rs. 8,32,59,678 and the net revenue from that is 88 lakhs, the return being 10·64 per cent and that is the return that we get from this outlay. Yet, it is not attempted to invest money under this head. If you look at the value of crops raised under these irrigation works, you see they give us crops worth nearly 27 crores, that means we are getting a return of 450 per cent. With all that the hon. the Finance Member has not provided more than 2 lakhs under the borrowed funds for this very useful purpose.

"Regarding liabilities, a word may be said. Our liabilities in 1921 were 985 lakhs and by next month we shall have liabilities to the extent of 1,056 lakhs. Altogether we shall have 241 lakhs more of liabilities. The amount repaid during these years is about 492 lakhs, and the remaining is about 1,549 lakhs, out of which the amount lent to others goes to the extent of 5 crores. The remaining liability which is entirely due from Government comes to about 10 crores. The hon. the Finance Member is very very anxious to pay up this amount, at least a part of it and not to utilize that sum for purposes which would fetch a large revenue and a larger profit to people, for

instance irrigation works or commercial undertakings. They are afraid of introducing any industries to this country and they always say that the subject is under the consideration of Government, and that they would look to that later on and so many other things are said, but nothing is attempted. This is due more to the fear that they would come in conflict with competition with foreign concerns and because they want to please the foreigners more than the persons concerned. As already observed by one hon. Member, there is no development in any other department except the Police department. The expenditure on Police in the year 1927-28 was 121 lakhs and now the budget figure is 2 crores. It is running up like anything. Perhaps the Government want to have a little army here so that they may hold the people in better subjugation and deal with them as they like. That is all they are attempting with regard to police matter.

"With regard to industries they are very indifferent. Sums are provided for industries, but they are never spent. They always lapse. Especially in regard to State-Aid to Industries Act, they are feeling very nervous. This budget may be considered the best budget or this may be considered the worst budget, but we are not very much concerned with this. What we are concerned is whether any provision is made in this budget for the proposals made by this side of the House from time to time. That is the test that should be applied before paying the chorus of praise to the Finance Member. It may be that he is the ablest Finance Member that he has produced the best budget possible in the world, it is none of our concern. What we have to look to is whether any of the things asked for by this House has been provided for in the budget. The first thing that we have been asked for is prohibition. Member after member during the discussion of the last budget and the previous budget have been saying that prohibition should be provided for first. That is altogether neglected and some white-washing business is done, which will be discussed later on.

"With regard to court-fees it is admitted by all the members of this House that this tax was levied under a distinct promise that it will not be kept one day longer than it was actually required for financial purposes. Now when there are large amounts to be utilized for so many other purposes this matter is not looked into at all. The other matter is with regard to industries which is always neglected and they do not want to do anything at all. Unfortunately we have got a very weak Minister who would not assert himself and do something for the subject which is entrusted to his care. My submission under these circumstances is that many of the provisions should be voted against.

"The hon. the Finance Member was pleased to pay a tribute to the zealous work carried out by the members of the Finance Committee, but he has not in any way appreciated the views taken by the majority of the members of the Committee. He has simply introduced all these items or most of those items which were rejected by the committee. If Government do not want to take into consideration even the majority view of the committee it is better that the committee is abolished than stand there for no purpose whatsoever. It is not possible to consider in detail all the matters that may be submitted before this House fully, but in the Finance Committee there will be more scope to look into the matters and other explanations that may be given by the Government. With all that, Government have not paid any

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heed to the considered opinion of the majority of the members of the committee. Their opinion is simply brushed aside and every thing rejected by the committee is introduced in the budget and we are asked to vote. I hope hon. Members will remember this and vote against all such provisions at the time when they come up for voting."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Mr. President, Sir, after listening to about sixty and odd members, almost every one of whom praising the budget and the author of it, I think the hon. the Finance Member must listen to some adverse criticism also for the sake of variety. Sir, the budget has been variously described as a good budget, a fair budget and a carrying on budget. Sir, what I find is that it is an artificial budget. The revenue of 1,807 lakhs is made to square with the expenditure of 1,827 lakhs. That attempt proved impossible and expenditure is now greater than the income. Sir, the plight of the Finance Member can well be compared to that of a Chinese cook who when he found that the provisions in the kitchen were not sufficient went to refuse bins for more provisions and made a free dish of tails and entails. It is nothing less than the task of the good old tailor of Piccadilly who when he found that he was not able to make a coat out of the cloth supplied to him indented for old coats and made a patch-work of the whole thing. That is exactly the thing that the Finance Member has done. When he found that the revenue was not sufficient, he turned to the lapsed grants left by negligent Ministers. He made an indent on them and then freely utilized them for discharging the debts and to meet the growing expenditure of this year.
11-45 a.m. It looks as though the whole thing is moving in a vicious circle. The Ministers make demands and at the end of the year, leave a large amount of lapsed grant and the hon. the Finance Member makes a free use of these lapsed grants, the result of criminal neglect of his colleagues on the Treasury Bench. How long is this state of affairs to continue? Is this a sound financial policy? Are the present nation-building departments functioning properly?

" Coming to the City of Madras I have to make a series of allegations against the Ministers. First comes the rise in the price of firewood, rice, straw and other articles of daily use which used till now to come to this city at a very cheap cost through the Buckingham Canal. Now, the canal has been closed for traffic and the provisions are held up in up-country places with the result that famine prices prevail in the city to-day. Firewood which was selling at 6 or 7 annas for every four stones is now sold at Rs. 1-1-0 and it is apprehended that it will rise to Rs. 1-8-0 in a day or two. The price of charcoal, which was 12 annas a bag, is now Rs 2-8-0 a bag. The selling price of a medium bag of rice at present is Rs. 10-12-0, whereas it was sold at Rs. 8-4-0 before. Sir, this may not affect rich people. What about the poor classes who have to depend upon their daily wages to keep body and soul together? How are they to eke out their livelihood if such obstructions are thrown in their way? All this is the result of the Government attempting to repair a cheap water way without any consideration for the inconvenience and hardship to the people of Madras.

"Then again, Sir, there is the vexed question of water-supply. This has been discussed very often in this House; an adjournment motion was moved and Government conceded that they will do everything in their power to improve water-supply. We asked for 22 lakhs for acquiring the irrigation rights of the Red Hills ayacut and 5 lakhs for constructing more filter beds.

Government have not made any provision for this. The city water-supply is in a precarious condition. Want of more filter beds made the Corporation mix filtered with unfiltered water for supply to the city and as a result we had a virulent epidemic of cholera in the city spreading even to the General Hospital claiming several victims. It is high time the Government helped the Corporation to get over this perennial difficulty.

"Then, Sir, the entertainment tax has given rise to a considerable amount of ill-feeling among the people, particularly the sporting classes. I do not see why they should go one step further and levy this much-resented entertainment tax from visitors at cricket matches, tennis tournaments, religious festivals and kalakshepams and Harikathas and other amateur sangeetha sabhas. In my opinion the entertainment tax on cinema alone will be justifiable.

"Coming to the question of timber tax I should hold the hon. the Chief Minister personally responsible for the loss of ninety thousand rupees to the Corporation of Madras. He says he will bring a Bill, but I fear it will be two years before he brings that measure and by that time the Corporation will lose about two or three lakhs.

"The way in which the hon. the Chief Minister made nominations to the Corporation has given rise to considerable adverse criticism. One of his nominees is his motor mechanic and another is a banker's son. Are there no members from minority communities to be nominated? There are the Viswakarmas, the Yadhavas, the Marwaris, the Gujaratis and Malayalis. Sir, the hon. the Minister seems to favour only his own men. The serious defalcation in the Corporation timber tax has been brought to his knowledge, and it is a standing scandal to any Corporation or honest Government; but the Corporation of Madras has hushed up the whole thing and the Government are timid to investigate into the matter lest some of their own men be exposed. More than two lakhs have been swindled and the Government have done nothing to bring the culprits to book. They think the Corporation is a body to be afraid of, but if it is Cochin or Chidambaram they dissolve it at once.

"Coming now to the police in the City of Madras it looks as if they have more power than His Majesty the King-Emperor himself. From the reply of the hon. the Home Member it seems that not even the hon. Members of the Treasury Bench have any controlling power over them. Sir, the way in which the police are behaving, by taking the law into their hands and arresting anybody, at any place and at any time shows that they, instead of maintaining peace and order, are creating chaos in the city. Sir, even now, while I was coming to the Council I narrowly escaped being dashed against the bus carrying the mufassal police patrolling the city. The same game was played last time and two or three men were killed by the reckless driving of these police-buses. I do not know why these up-country constables should be kept here. Their presence here serves for no purpose except to increase the price of the foodstuffs. What have the police done? Have they traced the culprits who committed the recent burglaries in Nungambakam, Mylapore and other centres in the city. Not one has been booked, nor are they making any attempts to prevent future burglaries. Instead of doing their legitimate work of protecting life and property and preventing crime

their attention is concentrated on Simon Commission and his party. There are three cases of murder undetected. There is the Mount murder; there is the murder committed in Ramaswami Street in Mannady; a long time has elapsed; somebody is arrested, kept for a time in custody and then let off. This is repeated over and over again and there is the inevitable scandal. Then there is the Bangalore train murder in which Rajammal was foully murdered, and nobody has been arrested. Are the police doing their duty at all? Will this state of things be allowed to continue in any civilized country? Are the police, instead of protecting life and property, going to arrest political leaders without warrant? Is it this system of Government we are going to have hereafter? Is this consistent with the dignity of British administration with its glorious traditions of its police behind it? Sir, if you cannot detect crime why don't you send for the detective police of the Scotland-yard; why waste money on your experts? I do not mind to which nationality they belong so long as they are able to detect crime. Bring them and ask them to teach your officers. Sir, as it is time for me to close my speech I shall take another opportunity to deal with the Medical Department."

Mr. J. Bhimayya then addressed the House in Telugu as follows :—

అధ్యక్షా, తూర్పు-పడమర గోదావరి జిల్లాలలోగల మా జాతీయులు యీడిగ, శెట్టిగ, శెట్టిబలిజలు అని మూడు విధములుగ పిలువబడుచు ఆ జిల్లాలలోగల మొత్తము జన సంఖ్యలో యెనిమిదవ వంతు జన సంఖ్యను కలిగిన పెద్ద సంఘమువారై వున్నారు. యక్సయిజు ద్వారా గవర్నమెంటువారికి ధనము చేకూర్చుటయందు రెండవ స్థాన మాక్రమించినది మా సంఘమువారే.

" పంచములవలెనే అన్ని విషయములలోను మా సంఘమువారు వెనుకబడియున్నారు. పంచమ పల్లెలవలెనే శెట్టిబలిజలుకూడా ప్రత్యేక పాలెములలో కాపురము చేయుచున్నారు. అచ్చట వారికి చిన్నచిన్న కుటీరములను నిర్మించుకొనుటకైనను తగిన నివేశన స్థలములులేవు. నీటి వసతికూడా చాలా తక్కువ. విద్యా శాలలు అసలేలేవు. జన సంఖ్యయందు రెండవ వారుగా వున్న యీ సంఘమునందుకూడ ఆదియాంధ్రులయందువలె ప్రభుత్వమువారు ప్రత్యేక ఆదరణ చూపవలసివున్నదిగాని యీ సంఘము యింతవరకు ప్రభుత్వమువారి దృష్టియందున్నట్లు తోచదు.

" ఈ సంవత్సరం ఆయవ్యయ పట్టికయందు విద్యానిధికి, నీటి సప్లయికి యెక్కువ మొత్తముల నొసగి ప్రతి శెట్టిబలిజ పాలెమునందు పాఠశాలలు స్థాపించవలెను. విరివిగా విద్యార్థి వేతనముల నొసంగవలెను. అవసరమున్నచోట్ల నూతులు త్రవ్వించవలెను. నివేశన స్థలములను యిప్పించవలెను. ప్రతి సంఘము యే కొద్దియో అభివృద్ధి నొందుచుండగా యీ సంఘము యింతవరకు కొంచెమైనను అభివృద్ధినొందు సూచనలుకూడా కాన్పించకుండుటకు కారణము యీ సంఘమువారు అనాదినుంచి ప్రధాన వృత్తిగా నవలంభించిన దేశద్రోహకరమగు మద్యపాన విక్రయముయొక్క పాప ఫలితమని చెప్పక తప్పదు.

" కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వమువారు యిదివరలో చేసిన వాగ్దానము ప్రకారము 20 సంవత్సరముల కాల వ్యవధితో నిమిత్తము లేకుండా సాధ్యమైన సంతత్వరలో సంపూర్ణ మద్యపాన నిషేధమును ఆచరణలోనికి తీసికొనివచ్చి అధోగతిపాలైయున్న యీ సంఘమువారిని మదుపాన విక్రయమనే మహా పాతకమునుండి విముక్తులను చేయుదురని పూర్ణ విశ్వాసముతో ఆశించుచున్నాను. ప్రస్తుత నామినేషనుల పద్ధతి తొలగించుచో యీ సంఘమువారికి జనసంఖ్యను బట్టి ప్రత్యేక యెన్నిక స్థానముల ప్రసాదించవలయునని సవినయముగా ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను."

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* Mr. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the present budget is disappointing, because it does not take a long view of the future, when expenditure must either increase or rigorous retrenchment will have to be practised and taxation must be reduced. The Government have shown that they have no policy in regard to the utilization of the unremitted Provincial contribution of three crores and a half. Some of it must be set apart for the reduction of taxation raised recently. Moreover a limit should be contemplated to the increase or even the maintenance of the present scale of land revenue and provision made therefor. The excise revenue must go, but even the possibility does not seem to have been contemplated. The growth of expenditure on establishments and mere brick and mortar is alarming. The Development Department has done nothing worth mentioning and may as well be wound up. The Excise Minister is trifling with Indianization of the medical services in the province. His latest joke is to spend four lakhs on temperance propaganda with one hand and offer liquor in plenty with the other. The money if granted by this Council will be most available for the election agent of the Minister and his friends. He pays lip service to prohibition but does nothing. He has gone back on the policy of his predecessor. He has no policy at all. The Education Minister has done nothing to reform local boards, his legislative programme is ambitious but he does not carry it out, and he has not tackled the problem either but is simply marking time. The Government have not introduced the Land Revenue Bill, the Irrigation Bill, the Estates Land Act (Amending) Bill or the Malabar Tenancy Bill. They have not paid any attention to the grievances of the ryots in my and other districts. Forest grievances are accumulating but nothing is done. Minor irrigation is thoroughly neglected. The Sircar to the ryots simply means collectors of revenue licit and illicit in various ways. The activities of the Police in my district are more directed to petty, mean and vindictive persecutions of congress workers but not to the detection or prevention of real crime. The Government of Madras have condemned dyarchy. We the Congress Party have always condemned it. Complete swaraj is the only remedy for all our grievances."

Mr. Al. Ar. Narayanan Chettiyar addressed the House in Tamil. 12 noon.

* Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED :—" Mr. President, Sir, at this stage I have no intention to make comments on items of revenue upon which there has been a falling off—or increase generally—nor on the manner of collection of taxes, nor have I the time to compare expenditure of the current year or last year with the year under discussion. The increase in the excise revenue only calls for some comment and it shows how far the Government is earnest in their policy of total prohibition. I may also add that reduction of debt is not satisfactory. I do not want to indulge on the oft-repeated theory of redress of grievances before voting on supplies. This has proved futile and serves no purpose. But one question which strikes me is—what is the benefit for the agriculturist and the wage-earner and what is the help offered to them in their distressed condition. It appears, according to the policy of the Government, as if the Government has determined to wash its hands of all attempts to relieve the distress prevalent throughout the country. There are plenty of indications in this Presidency that trade is not what it should be, that agriculture is not in a flourishing state, that wages are low, there is no industrial peace in the land and that the condition of the people, especially of those who

are described roughly as the lower middle classes, or it may be even the upper middle classes, is one which should make us turn our immediate attention to allaying of widespread discontent.

"The question of unemployment in general, the position of the non-gazetted servants in all departments and the great and appalling state of illiteracy, especially among the Muslim community, the increasing indebtedness and sickness of the ryot require our serious attention but they have not been tackled. It seems to me that until revenue suffered severely and there is a general consternation throughout, financial arrangements to relieve the distress will not force themselves on the attention of the Government. There is certainly a disposition among the distressed classes when they heard of budget to feel that they are treated with great negligence and utter indifference. All this unsatisfactory state of affairs seems to me to be due to one great cause, viz., the lack of effective control of this House over public expenditure.

"Of course, in a country like ours, where we are not self-governed, but other-governed, expenditure of public revenues depends partly upon the policy of the Government, and partly upon the methods of the Cabinet or executive, over which this Legislature has no control whatever. In free countries while expenditure depends, apart from delegation of financial business to committees, upon financial criticism and debate in the Chamber of peoples' representatives no such thing obtains in our country. On the other hand our Legislature is seriously handicapped by the rules of financial procedure, the political character of its discussions, and by the lack of intelligent financial information available to the members and practically the Legislature has no material to work on. And the absurdity of the rules is that when more money should be spent on peoples' education, one has to move to reduce the vote of money on that service. When we are but so many political factions and not evolved into perfect political parties, financial criticism has become merely political or party criticism.

"To add to this, the very frequent tightening of ill-developed party system has made financial control practically nil and the nominated element in the Council contributes to this to a great extent.

"Besides, the Government control over time and action in the House, the small number of says, the stereotyped arrangement of the budget demands from year to year, and the suppression of the private member' make the whole budget discussions and voting degenerate into a mere farce, at the expense of public time and money.

"We want economy and efficiency; we want saving and saving for a purpose. We want to save money to enable Government to go into some of the beneficial projects which we are debarred from taking up because we cannot increase our expenditure. We want to stop the indebtedness of the province and the people which threatens to be increasing from year to year.

"We do not want ideal education system, ideal system of public health and ideal agriculture and ideal system of law and order and ideal justice, but only some betterment in those directions.

"But unless the Legislature should exercise real control over national expenditure and over the financial agencies, viz., the treasury and the spending department, no good result would ensue. No doubt the Legislature is

supposed to have set up three kinds of control, viz., the financial committee for anterior control, the House itself for concurrent control and the Public Accounts Committee for retrospective control on audit and appropriation accounts, but each one of these institutions has many serious defects and handicaps. Let us consider the Finance Committee. Its decisions are merely recommendatory. There is not enough time given to the committee for full scrutiny. Estimates of costs could not be thoroughly scrutinized for want of other facilities and the whole thing seems to be merely formal.

"Secondly the House itself suffers from very many handicaps more or less similar in nature. Even the information furnished to the Finance Committee is not available to the members of the House. Again shortness of time and other rules of procedure, and the large official and nominated element, are other sources of hindrance to work in the Council.

"Thirdly the machinary of Public Accounts Committee is not so much financial as judicial. It must prevent illegality or fraud more than mere waste. Not much opportunity is given for discussion of its report in the Council, so to secure real and effective control over expenditure these defects must be removed and one or more Estimate Committees should be set up. Every estimate relating to existing services or new services should be called for from every Government department for thorough examination and scrutiny of the estimates of costs. The mere bill should not be taken as sufficient authority for passing of the estimate. The estimates of cost or financial forecast should be financially scrutinized. Accurate knowledge collected by trained officials should be furnished which may be checked or extended by examination of witnesses or documents. A permanent secretariat may be instituted to help these Estimate Committees. This financial scrutiny may also be delegated if so desired to select committees of the House. The Estimate Committee is to be a financial informer to the House."

* Khan Sahib T. M. Moidu Sahib Bahadur :—"Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the excellent budget which he has presented to the Council. I congratulate the Finance Member not only for the budget but also for certain other things as well. We find that the budget is a very satisfactory one because there are many new items provided for new schemes therein. The question of education and village reconstruction has been referred to by many speakers here.

"Coming from Malabar I know the difficulties experienced by rural population there for want of communications, water-supply and medical relief. I request the hon. the Minister to reconsider the provision already made and at least to increase it to some extent so that we may get a substantial amount for these purposes.

"Coming to roads, I must confess that the Government are maintaining trunk roads but the amount they allot is far inadequate. The Government has resumed control of the maintenance of the trunk roads; but they give only a very small sum, something about Rs. 500 per mile for their maintenance. In the case of the Public Works Department they give a substantial sum as large as Rs. 2,000 per mile. Whenever the Government want an opinion on our roads, they compare our roads with the Department of Public Works and say that our roads are not maintained properly. On our part, we plead

inadequate financial provision and as such we are not able to do anything on such low grants as Rs 500 per mile. So, I requst the Chief Minister to see his way to provide at least a scale of Rs. 1,000 per mile for trunk roads.

12-15 p.m. "Then coming to the very serious question affecting my own community. the Muslim community, regarding the appointment of a High Court Judge from my community, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that as long as three years ago, I happened to be one of those who represented this grievance to His Excellency the Governor urging that the Muslim population not only in Madras, but outside also feels very much in the matter of the appointment of a Muhammadan as High Court Judge. Although I do not agree that in the discharge of the duties, the administration of justice, there is anything to complain if there is not Muhammadan High Court Judge, I submit that on the communal basis there must be at least a Muhammadan Judge on the High Court. I hope that at least this time the Government will consider this matter favourably when a vacancy occurs.

"Mr. President, Sir, much has been said about the excise policy of the Government. I have nothing to say against that policy. But I must say that there is not a single Mappilla in the department either as inspector or sub-inspector or in any other capacity. I hope the hon. the Minister will consider the case of Mappillas in the near future when opportunities may occur. In conclusion I once more congratulate the hon. the Finance Member with whom I had as a member of the Finance Committee more occasion to come into contact and know his work. I must confess that we cannot find a better Finance Member than Mr. Moir who is not a miser and who is not very liberal either; he always looks into the financial position of the province carefully so much so that he never wants that any unnecessary expense should be incurred with the limited finances at his disposal."

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the first place, I wish to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the clear and frank presentation of the budget. In this year's budget we find a new feature and that is, he has appended a few graphs which enable one to understand at a single glance the whole situation of our revenue and expenditure for the last about ten years. I am glad also that the hon. the Finance Member has understood the truth and implications of the saying 'that he who borroweth goes a sorrowing', and came forward to clear off a debt of over two crores of rupees from the opening balance. In short, Sir, thanks to the remission of the provincial contribution and thanks to the stricter supervision of the Finance Department, the state of our provincial finance will not give us any anxiety for a few years more, at any rate. Sir, in the matter of expenditure I wish to draw the kind attention of the hon. the Finance Member to a few points entirely in a spirit of constructive criticism. As we are all aware the large amount of $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores which has been released by the remission of the provincial contribution was substantially raised by the increase of the land tax and land tax alone, when in those days the inequitable impost was being collected from this province. Since this large amount was raised entirely from the land tax, I think we are morally bound to spend that amount, at least a large portion of that amount, either by reducing the land tax or at any rate by affording greater facilities for the amelioration of the agricultural classes in particular and of the rural population in general. (Hear, hear.) The process

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of amelioration may be done by affording greater facilities for village communications, rural sanitation and water-supply by providing better facilities for the spread of primary education, and also by granting liberal remissions during bad seasons. Sir, let us forget even this aspect, namely, the money that is released by the remission of the provincial contribution and the relative right of the rural population over its use, and think normally over the normal expenditure. Looking from that standpoint I am inclined to take exception to the large provision of over 2 crores of rupees for civil works. (Hear, hear.) Barring an amount of about 45 lakhs which has been provided for village roads, bridges and grants-in-aid to local bodies for the same purpose, I think a large amount of one and half crores of rupees is proposed to be spent over brick and mortar the necessity of which I do not question, but I wish to impress that those schemes may as well wait for a few years. They have waited for so long and they can as well wait for a few years more; and in the meanwhile the Government can give this amount to the more crying needs of the rural population. For instance, I may once again point out that primary education should be brought to the door of every villager, and in fact on the universality and success of this scheme depends to a large extent the success of local self-government in this province, and will ever depend.

"Then, Sir, I wish to say just a word about the much criticised provision of four lakhs of rupees for temperance propaganda. Sir, I should think that this provision is a very necessary one. In fact this step is only an auxiliary and necessary step if the desire for prohibition is to be an accomplished fact and not a mere bravado in speech as was instanced in the last two days by the speeches on this subject delivered by certain hon. Members. I do not know for what purpose they have spoken like that. They may have their own motives. The elections are very soon to come. (A voice :—'Election is the reason for these pamphlets.') No doubt the confirmed drunkards cannot be weaned from their habit of drink. Any amount of propaganda will not assist them in saving them from that habit. (Hear, hear.) They are a hard lot. (Voices :—'Oh, oh'.) But, Sir, there are unwary people who every day walk into the footsteps of the confirmed drunkards and swell their number, and this propaganda will certainly go a long way in preventing such people, the prospective drunkards from taking to the drink habit."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—"How are you going to find them out?"

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—"Open more shops."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—"This amount, Sir, is mostly going to be spent for providing sums to the local bodies and for non-official agencies. So, the hon. Members opposite need not have any anxiety or fear that the money will not be spent properly for the purpose for which it is intended. So when, side by side with this temperance propaganda, a judicious reduction of liquor shops is taken in hand, there will sooner or later come a time when the ground for complete prohibition will be prepared. (A voice :—'When?'.) And if the Government adopts the complete closure of liquor shops, then our province will be ready for (A Voice :—'Swaraj?') a dry area, and then the cry for prohibition will no longer be a cry for the moon."

* Mr. Syed Tajudin :—"Mr. President, Sir, I should very much like to add my quota in congratulating the hon. the Finance Member in having so clearly presented this year's budget. Considering the financial

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resources which are at the command of the Government, I think the hon. the Finance Member has done his very best in the matter of allotting sums for various purposes. Sir, there are a number of demands which are pressing on the attention of the Government. I think hon. Members will agree with me when I say that all these demands cannot be met all of a sudden and in a single budget. We cannot provide for one and all of these schemes, however laudable the object of the schemes may be. And therefore, I think the hon. the Finance Member has cut his coat according to the cloth. However, I should like to suggest a few things that are desirable and over which attention should be paid in the near future. The Vizagapatam Hospital which goes by the name of King George's Hospital requires certain very urgent improvements. That big hospital where there are hundreds of beds, where thousands of patients are being treated year after year, you will be surprised to learn, is going on without any drainage system at all. All the refuse matter and all the highly infectious and contagious morbid matters are allowed to soak within the compound itself. Therefore that hospital, I am afraid, serves more to disseminate disease than to eradicate disease from that part of our land.

12-30 p.m. "Besides, the nursing staff is far from being satisfactory. During out of hours, say during night time, no patient is attended upon by these nurses. They come from a class called the French Order, and they never leave their cells in the nights. Therefore the patients have to suffer. I am told most of the nurses do not possess the qualifications they ought to possess. Therefore, I think a better staff of nurses is a long-felt desideratum there. Thirdly, in this Presidency, there are very few hospitals where caste and gosha people can get satisfactory treatment as the Government Caste and Gosha Hospital. This hospital is intended to supply clinical material for lady students and unless it is equipped with the latest improvements I do not think it will serve the purpose for which it stands.

"I should like to express my thanks to my Chief for having made a fairly large provision for starting more elementary schools for Muhammadan boys. (Mr. Basheer Ahmad: Question.) I feel it my duty to express my thankfulness to the hon. the Home Member for having effected a number of improvements in the police (Mr. Satyamurti: namely—). The whole City Police is now reorganized. (Mr. Satyamurti: European Sergeants are getting more pay.) So also the Criminal Intelligence department which was ante-deluvian in its nature. (Voices: Oh!). That department also has undergone a thorough change for the better. (Mr. Satyamurti: How do you know?) Because from the reports you can understand that this department has done yeoman service in detecting crimes and the police officers have detected a great number of cases which were undetected. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Only political.) Therefore, I feel it my duty to congratulate the hon. the Home Member for the good changes he has made in this department. (Mr. Satyamurti: Then what about others?)"

* Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Mr. President, Sir, when we had the very first budget presented in the Reformed Council, I criticized it as an artificial budget, in the sense that it tried to over-estimate receipts, so that it might appear to be a surplus budget. The tendency of the later days has been the other way. The tendency has been to under-estimate the receipts and over-estimate the expenditure. That I am not exaggerating in any way would be clear from the statement of the hon. the Finance Member

himself, from which it would appear that, so far as the budget for the year about to end is concerned, the receipts are likely to exceed the forecasted estimates by 48 and odd lakhs and expenditure is likely to fall short by 99 and odd lakhs; and of this estimate of expenditure, which is found to be more than they can spend, the reserved side is responsible for no less than two-thirds. It is true that the transferred side has also a considerable amount to lapse by neglecting such very urgent necessities like the improvement of water-supply, medical help and other things. They might perhaps plead that it is due to their inexperience and untried non-official agencies under them. But I can find no such excuse for the reserved side with their experts and trained staff. This pernicious system has a very serious disadvantage, so far at any rate as the transferred side is concerned. By this method of under-estimating receipts and over-estimating expenditure it is made to appear to the transferred side that there is not any money available for embarking on useful schemes of expenditure, with the result that they deny then the chances of formulating schemes or, if they have formulated schemes, of putting them forward for execution.

"Sir, the Council proceedings tell us that the term of office of the hon. the Leader of the House will expire by December of this year, and as this is the last budget at which he is going to be present, I think it fair to myself and to the House to publicly express my indebtedness to some of the good things that he has done. The older Members of this House will remember the very strenuous fight we put up against the proposals of the Government to increase the land tax in Anantapur and Bellary districts. We agitated and agitated but all our cries proved but cries in the wilderness, and the Government merely confirmed the proposals of their subordinates. Then there was a change of personnel and representations were made that these enhancement proposals were not justifiable, more especially the proposal to increase the tax on black-cotton soils by a higher percentage than that on red soils. He readily admitted the untenability of having different rates of enhancement for black-cotton and red soils and reduced the rates on black-cotton lands from $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. That was no small thing. The Council will recognize the full value of his service when I tell them that the registers of all those villages had already been written up, that even the diglott registers had been printed or were in course of printing. He had them all re-written and errata issued to the printed registers and thus gave a relief to the people (partial though it be) which had been denied by two of his predecessors. So also with regard to survey stones. He did away with the revenue inspectors' fees and rectified many of the anomalies connected with the levy of charges and their distribution among ryots.

"Again, Sir, in regard to districts which are susceptible to famine, he has introduced a reform by which though water from perennial rivers, if any, flowing in them might be used for lands by the help of pumps, no water charge will be levied for the first five years and for three years thereafter the charges would be only half of the normal rates. Above all, Sir, I think we are indebted to him for the memorandum he has presented before the Simon Commission; and while I do not agree with some of the things mentioned in it, I think it is a bold and very outspoken statement for a Member of the Civil Service. The hon. the Leader of the House must, I think, be thankful that in the last year of his regime, such an interesting and useful portfolio as

irrigation has come into his hands. He knows almost all the districts in the Province. I would like, Sir, that he should exert himself and see that the famines, some districts are periodically subject to, are things of the past. If he will take the trouble of going through all records relating to these districts and try to ascertain what Government themselves have lost by way of remission of land revenue, by way of irrecoverable agricultural loans, by way of losses of revenue on land which the impoverished ryots could not re-cultivate, the loss of revenue due to allowing cattle freely to graze in forests, the huge sums that have been spent in relieving distress, if he will calculate all this, I am sure he will find that these figures total up to over 25 crores, that is, a sum more than twice the cost of the Tungabhadra project as estimated a few years ago. More than that, let him try to picture to himself the enormous loss of men and cattle. Between the years 1871 and 1921, the census figures show the population in the famine districts as more or less stationary, while for the rest of the Presidency they show a considerable increase. By that one is led to conclude that during that period of 50 years as many as 14½ lakhs of people have died owing to economic causes in those districts. I therefore urge upon him to push forward, with all the vigour he can, the investigation of this project.

" As regards minor tanks, which play no inconsiderable part in the life of the rural population, I do not know of any arrangements by which these tanks are inspected at least once in a year. I doubt whether any money is made available for all these and whether, if money is made available, he has the necessary staff to carry out the works.

" The forests under panchayats need early attention at his hands. The transfer of all the small insignificant forests from the Government to panchayats is on the whole a welcome change. But why should there be too much of interference and too many inconvenient rules? The only thing the Government should concern themselves with in regard to these forests is that they are not losers in any way by the transfer of these forests, and that they continue to get what they were getting before and that the forests do not deteriorate by change of control. These two conditions being assured, the Government should leave a free hand to the non-official agency to manage these forests. On the other hand, at every step they are interfering with the liberty of the panchayat. They prescribe the number of units which should be allowed for grazing, the rates at which the permits should be granted, the staff that should be employed, and, above all, while these forests in their hands were most of them losing concerns, they now try to squeeze as much as they can from the unfortunate non-officials who cannot but take over these forests in the interests of their cattle. If any cattle trespasses into these forests, compounding fees are levied, and Government would not allow these panchayats to utilize this amount though they are entitled to it, but would appropriate it themselves.

12-45 p.m. " Sir, a single forest which hitherto perhaps consisted of 5,000 acres is now split up into five or six plots, each of 1,000 or so acres, with a separate management independent of one another, with the result that if cattle strayed from one block to another—you must remember that they are all contiguous blocks—the panchayat in charge has the right to impound and penalize for trespass. This also should be avoided. And, again, many of the panchayat forests are within half a mile of—not

cultivated lands remember—but, of village site. This gives a temptation to people in charge of panchayats to harass the ryots by impounding cattle for trespass. This also must be avoided.

"Sir, the Government are now levying at the rate of Rs. 2 for each subdivision. Of this, one rupee is supposed to be given to the karnam who is employed on the subdivision and the other rupee is credited to the Government. As a matter of fact, of these two rupees, one rupee is not invariably given to the karnam. If the figures for the past several years are examined it will be found that not more than a very small fraction of this amount really goes into the pocket of the karnam. I suggest that only one rupee may be collected, that the whole of that may go to the karnam who is after all an ill paid official and that nothing need be collected for the Government. After all, it is a pernicious principle to say in one breath that their officers are paid for all their time and in the next breath levy a charge over again for work done during the period, which admittedly is already paid for.

"Sir, I want to say a word or two about the village officers. You may remember how, as a result of a resolution passed by this Council, the pay of these people was increased to Rs. 15. That resulted in an increased expenditure and the Government, in order to bring it down, resorted to the devise of clubbing several villages together and reducing the number of village officers. We raised a protest against that step and the hon. the Revenue Member was good enough to concede that if we would suggest any proposals to him by which he can restore all the village officers at the same time without being asked to exceed the expenditure he was then incurring he was willing to agree. You and others, Sir, in the Select Committee then made proposals which were accepted. Those proposals were made on the assumption that the figures furnished by the Revenue Member then were quite accurate. The expenditure as notified was very nearly the amount he was spending then on the establishment. But what are the real facts? The hon. the Revenue Member said that he was prepared to spend up to Rs. 119 lakhs on the establishment; but the budget now presented to us shows that only 93 lakhs are needed to meet the cost of the establishment. Now I suggest that this difference should be utilized to restore the pay of these village officers and village menials to the level at which it stood previously. After all, theirs is a legitimate claim. To say that in order to meet the deficit they should not have an addition of eight annas to their pay of Rs. $7\frac{1}{2}$ is rather cruel, especially when there is the money, which was intended for them, available. I think the least the Government can do is to restore the scale of pay to the level it stood before.

"One other point I shall refer to before I turn from the hon. the Revenue Member. In the district of Bellary the seasonal conditions are again bad. Orders have not yet been issued—I do not know if they have been issued—as to what relief the Government are going to give to the ryots concerned. The collection season is in full swing. There are arrears of past years to be collected and I think it is up to the Government to pass very early orders giving them substantial relief It would not be wise, I beg respectfully to warn the Government, to collect the uncollectable arrears of previous or current faslis. Because, by so doing you will never allow the ryots to recover from their condition and revert to a normal existence at any time hereafter.

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"I do not want to say much about the other Members in the Reserved Half. The hon. the Home Member is an amiable gentleman, very soft-hearted, very kind and all that. But yet Sir, he would like to avoid any friction with his Colleagues and would agree with them just to get along. The authors of the Reform never contemplated that there should be Indian Members on that side merely to carry on. They are there to represent the Indian point of view and stand up for Indians and put up a fight for them. (Cries of 'hear, hear' from the Swarajists.) The hon. the Law Member said many valiant things when he was on this side of the House but with his transfer to the Treasury Bench there has been a wonderful change in him. His answers to the questions (The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur: 'What about you?') are blunt even to the point of rudeness. The tone in which he gives the answers is worthy of an irresponsible bureaucrat. He was saying many hard things when he was here in regard to the release of Mr. P. Narayana Menon. He was pleading here for the separation of judicial and executive functions; pleading for the abolition of the Board of Revenue; pleading for the codification of the land revenue. What is he going to do now that he is on the Treasury Bench? He said that he has not changed his views in regard to the release of Mr. Narayana Menon. But why does he not translate it into practice? He says: 'I am helpless'. Why does he continue there. He says there is a Cabinet secret into which mortal eyes cannot pry."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I had been engaged in the work connected with the Simon Commission and so had no time to study in detail the financial statement. I therefore apologise to the House if my remarks are desultory. I would have been silent but for the very provoking remarks that fell from the ex-Minister for Development, Mr. Ranganatham. If he had only searched his heart to find out what he was able to do when he was in service, in the office as responsible Minister for the benefit of the poorer classes for whom he speaks so valiantly on this occasion, it would have been well Before he became Minister we know what he was pleading for. I repeat that if he had searched his heart to find out what he was able to do as Minister, he would not have found any reason to quarrel with the Home Member or Revenue Member. (Interruptions.) Whatever may be the reason for our friends on the Opposition being in league with him or joining hands with him on this occasion, it seems to me that they look strange bed fellows. I need not go into that matter in detail. We can spare Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar for other occasions where his own policies will come out in greater relief for criticism.

"As regards the budget (Mr. Satyamurti: 'Oh.') it is rather surprising to find that there has been so much of unspent balances brought over as opening balance. The hon. the Finance Member has explained that the Public Works Department is responsible for the large surrenders, the department not being able to carry out all the works for which provision had been made in the last budget. It is surprising that the Finance Department, with the careful scrutiny which it claims and with the detailed criticism which it is alleged to have been applying to demands from the departments, should have allowed these excesses in estimates to escape its attention. My surprise is all the more justified when I find that there were many supplementary demands in the course of the year for the Public Works Department. All this shows that greater control over the preparation of

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estimates in the departments is absolutely necessary. If the estimates or the schemes submitted to the Finance Department had been carefully scrutinized there would not have been such large surrenders as we have now.

" There is also another feature of the Budget to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. With regard to revenue there has always been during the last two years an under estimate. For, as hon. Members will find in the budget, there has been an increase of revenue from sources where from it could have been anticipated. Then in regard to expenditure there has been an estimate of overexpenditure. Therefore the surpluses at the end of the year have been rather large. This aspect I am sure will be carefully looked into when the budget is prepared. Underestimate of revenue and overestimate of expenditure is not a healthy sign of the financial condition in this province.

" There is one other point which I wish to place before the House. Are there any new schemes in the budget for 1929-30? Is there any policy on which the proposals have been prepared and developed? From the speech of the hon. the Finance Member we understand that there is provision for a recurring expenditure of about 58 lakhs and about 140 lakhs non-recurring on several schemes. Do these estimates of expenditure indicate any scheme or programme of development in the departments in any other direction? I looked cursorily into the memorandum supplied by the Secretary in explanation of the various items. But I regret I did not find any satisfactory explanation for any new scheme that would go to benefit the people.

" Sir, the hon. Member for the South Indian Chamber of Commerce says that 125 lakhs have been provided in the budget. I say, you may provide 2 crores, but where is the scheme that will prove beneficial to the people. In the Development Department some improvements have been provided here and there but there is no useful scheme worked out to spend upon which will improve the lot of the people in a progressive manner.

" I will now refer to the scheme which was prepared for the expansion of elementary education. According to that scheme there would be expansion of elementary education in the first instance, then scrutiny and consolidation in the second stage and thirdly adoption of free and compulsory education. That is the last stage in the matter of the development of elementary education in the country. I am glad to find that some provision has been made for the expansion of elementary education. But I find that the scheme for vocational education, for practical training to be given in secondary schools meets with very meagre support. I hope the Minister will be able to develop and work out plans and find money for the scheme to enable young men in the secondary schools to have some kind of manual training, some kind of technical bias to enable them to take to different walks of life whenever they find it necessary to do so after leaving the school.

" It is not that I suggest that every high school should be converted into a workshop, but what I say is that a certain amount of practical training 1 p.m. should be given to young men who are unable to go to collegiate and University studies. For such of those who are not able to take up higher studies on account of economic causes, greater provision should have been made for providing some kind of vocational bias so that a large number of young men when they come out of their schools, may be able to stand upon their own legs

and be able to make a living for themselves. Just as we want compulsory physical training in schools, I say that provision should also be made for giving the boys some kind of vocational training. Viewed from this standpoint the budget has not laid out any specific policy or schemes. There is no use of putting forward unreal schemes and I am not therefore satisfied with the budget as it has been framed at present."

*Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju :—"It is really distressing to come here year after year to discuss a budget prepared by an alien bureaucracy for the benefit of a foreign Government who in the very nature of things cannot be expected to have at heart the real good of the country. I can only deplore that the time has not yet come when the people of this country will have the power to shape their own destinies and develop their resources in their own way. I hope the British Parliament in its wisdom will avoid serious complications in the Indian constitution by accepting before the end of the year the constitution that has found its acceptance not only at the hands of the progressive politicians of this country, the Congress men, but also at the hands of all the parties in this country at the All-Parties Conference. It is a known fact in the history of human would that no nation can keep another ancient nation with a tradition and culture of its own always as their subject nation. It would be graceful if the British Parliament sees its way to accept the scheme and as it will have to do it sooner or later, do it rather sooner than later. Well, leaving the future of the country into the hands of the Allmighty God who is after all the ruler of destinies of nations as well as individuals I proceed to consider the budget which has just been presented. I see that in spite of the great events that have been foreshadowed by the introduction of the Reforms, no change of heart on the part of the Government or no attempt at taking away their hands from the throat of the country or from the pocket of the country has been noticed. The economic condition of the people has been admitted, not by politicians but by fair-minded foreign observers, to be very highly deplorable. Heavy taxation is impoverishing them to such an extent that at every advent of famine many lives are lost. Owing to this high taxation, half of the product of the land which is the result of the toiling masses has been taken away and they are left at the verge of starvation. With this poverty and the consequent emaciation, it is no wonder that in every famine a great number of population perish. It is no exaggeration to say that this huge mortality in the country, even though it was pointed out by the hon. the Minister in charge that it was due to other causes, is due to the poverty of the people who cannot sustain even a slight attack of any epidemic diseases. One British Civilian Mr. W. H. Lilly in his book very graphically describes what he actually saw at the time of a famine. Just only to give some figures he says that 5 millions of the population of Southern India perished in one year of famine in the 19th century. In the case of Bellary with which he is personally acquainted one-fourth of the population perished on account of famine in 1876-77. Again to give the opinions of one of the most important British people, Sir Charles Elliot, he says :—'Out of the agricultural population 50 per cent do not know from year end to year end what it is to have a full meal'. Such is the state of the people of this country and our foreign rulers have imposed upon us the costliest administration in the whole world, and the sons of the soil are made to sweat and starve to provide for the ever increasing army of foreign officials with large salaries and fat allowances. It is no wonder that under such

conditions, the hon. the Finance Member takes certain schemes in a patched up manner and does not mention any schemes which would be beneficial to the people.

"Now to come to the services, if we take the police department we will find that the highest paid official is the Inspector-General and he gets Rs. 3,000. An official who supervises the work of his subordinates gets the fat salary of Rs. 3,000, whereas the village police man who does the real work and bears the brunt gets the starvation wages of Rs. 3 per month. It is not a case of a particular man getting such a low salary. There are about one thousand people who are doing this kind of work and they are getting only this small pittance of Rs. 3. The very fact that Government are keeping men on such low salaries clearly shows that they know that the average income of an Indian is not more than Re. 1 or Rs. 2 a month. What is it that these high officers are doing for us and the country? They have no idea to ameliorate the condition of the sons of the soil. They are here to watch the interests of their own countrymen. They forget for the time being that they are being paid out of the hard earned money of the poor ryots of the country. Now with this poverty in the country, I ask is there any necessity for maintaining police at such a high cost for security of property?

"Now we come to the question of law and order we have in this country. 1–15 p.m.
Lawlessness and atrocities are committed in this country by the officials themselves. They talk of law only to commit the most lawless acts. They talk of order and they do everything in their power to create disorder in the country. They talk of maintenance of peace and it is they who provoke the people to commit breach of peace. Who are the persons that will be affected if tranquillity and order is not maintained in this country? It is the people themselves; it is they who suffer most. We do not require goading by the official to maintain peace and tranquillity in this country. For some political reason or other the Government want to molest some persons and invent some pretext or other for the perpetration of illegal acts on those persons. The highest legal acumen in the service of the Government will misinterpret law in such a way as to justify these acts and the Indian Members in the Treasury Bench will try to believe everything that comes from their departments who unfortunately twist facts and make misstatements. The will of the beauracracy is the supreme law and we, the sons of the country, are outlaws in the country. It is admitted even by the hon. the Law Member that the police have no power to prevent the mischiefs that may be done by an old woman of 80 or 90 if she was allowed to live in her house. The police is consuming more than two crores of rupees of the province. What has been the policy of the department so far? In addition to the Black Hole tragedy, at the time of the Mappilla Rebellion in the name of law and order, the wagon tragedy occurred. The tragedy has to be called the wagon tragedy. The Black Hole tragedy was not known to many people and it is said that is a myth; but the wagon tragedy is known to all the hon. Members of this House. The people themselves were sent away to Andamans with their families because they were a little emotional, even though repeated resolutions were passed both by the Hindu and Muhammadan sections of people in Malabar and by all sections of this House for their release. A man who is known even to the hon. the Law Member to be a very innocent man and who was unjustly convicted under an unholy law

has not been released in spite of repeated requests made in this House. In addition to the ordinary police, we have the special police in Malabar at an expenditure of Rs. 4 or 6 lakhs. The East Coast Police which was recently abolished is being somehow or other introduced by a scheme of the reorganization of the police in the Northern Circars.

"My hon. Friend, the Finance Member, was angry with us when we said that the Government had no schemes. The budget is really a scheming one; the only defect is there are no schemes underlying it. There are no schemes which will go, in any way, to ameliorate the condition of the people. The budget is a scheming one in trying to draw away our attention from the huge surpluses that are accruing year after year so that we may not have them utilized for really popular and useful schemes. There was the remission of the provincial contribution of Rs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores which the hon. the Finance Member is scheming somehow or other to be lost in the various departments.

"Take the increase in excise revenue, which was attributed to the high tree tax and in some cases also to greater consumption. At the time of the raising of the tree tax it was the object of the then Minister in power to utilize this amount for the introduction of prohibition in at least two districts. What is the surplus which the Excise Minister has been getting year after year? In one year it was Rs. 32 lakhs; in another year it was 33 lakhs of rupees. In one year they anticipate a decrease of $3\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees. While it was 5 crores in the year 1926-27, it rose to more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees last year. The hon. the Finance Member usually takes care to see that such increases are not anticipated. Even when there is an increase of more than 50 lakhs of rupees, the hon. the Excise Minister is not able to introduce prohibition in at least two districts. It is a sorry spectacle to see a man, who professed prohibition when he was on this side of the House, to give the go-by to all his principles and convictions when he sits there and takes up that portfolio. I can only pity him. With regard to his propaganda he is taking great pride for having provided a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs to carry propaganda among the people and say 'please do not drink'. The excise officers on the other side will be bringing pressure from the other side and inviting the people to drink. There is no use in saying we are doing propaganda work but the drink traffic does not cease. I can understand the hon. Minister saying that he finds it difficult to introduce prohibition all at once, and that it is a question of losing a large amount of revenue. Even that is not impossible.

"After the Reforms the cost of administration has increased by an amount nearly equal to the revenue from Excise. If they had not increased the salaries of officers by a reorganization of the services, if they had reduced unnecessary expenditure by reducing the salaries of the higher officers, they would have found it quite possible to do away with this highly sinful traffic.

"Now let us take the agricultural and economic condition of the people. What have they done for the promotion and fostering of our indigenous industries? My hon. Friend the Development Minister knows fully well that one of the greatest industries that engages a very large number of people, an industry which was in existence from a long time before the advent of the British people has been discouraged altogether in order to benefit the manufacturers in Britain. I mean the hand-spinning and hand-weaving industry

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of this country. That is an industry which, if properly developed, would materially benefit the Government by raising the economic condition of the masses."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will now adjourn and reassemble at 2–30 p.m."

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.).

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I only propose to touch some of the salient points raised by hon. Members of this House with regard to the departments under my immediate charge, namely, the administration of the Hindu Religious Endowments and the local self-governing bodies and education both university, secondary and elementary. To take the question of the Religious Endowments Board first, the only criticism that was levelled against the administration of this department was that the promised Bill has not seen the light of day. The Bill that is now being drafted was the outcome of the work that was done by a committee appointed by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and their suggestions were drafted into a Bill by the then President of the Religious Endowments Board, Sir T. Sadasiva Ayyar. My hon. Friend was only able to deal with it in a cursory manner and before he could consider the Bill in detail, he unfortunately resigned his office and I had to take up the work from that time and since then I have finished my labours and it is now in the hands of the Drafting department. I hope it will be possible for the Bill to be introduced in the July session of this Council.

" Now, with regard to the local self-governing bodies, the chief criticism levelled against the provision that is made on the budget was mainly by presidents of district boards, Mr. Muniswami Nayudu and Mr. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar. Both of them referred to the fact that only a grant of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs has been made towards village roads. I admit the grant is not adequate, but the expenditure on these village communications has lapsed from year to year and even though the sums that have lapsed have been put back in the budget year after year, still from reports that we get we find that the local bodies have not been able to spend all the sums that have been given to them. They also referred to the question of the Rural Development fund. That is being considered now and the Local Self-Government Advisory Committee have adopted the suggestion of the Government that there should be a fund of that nature, equal sum being found by Government as the sums which the local bodies set apart for such rural development. I hope it will also be possible to grant a further sum to the local bodies concerned if and when they show that they are able to provide their half grant from their funds and also satisfy the Government that they will be able to spend the sums so allotted to them. Of course there were also references to the amendments of the various Acts. They are also being drafted and I hope it will be possible, at least for the Local Boards Act, to be introduced in July.

" With regard to Education, the nominated Member representing the depressed classes Swami Sahajanandam and also Mr. Munuswami Pillai referred to the question of midday meals for depressed class children. That question has been considered time and again, but the cost will be so immense that it is impossible even to think of it, because on a rough calculation it has been found that as much as 43 lakhs of rupees a year will be needed if this is to be done. The chief criticism so far as I gathered from the speeches of the

hon. Members was on the Education budget, especially with regard to sums provided for university education, as compared with sums provided for elementary and secondary education. If, for a moment, I compare the figures with other provinces, I hope hon. Members will bear with me. In Madras the direct expenditure on elementary education from Government funds alone amounted to 73·80 lakhs in 1926-27 as against 25·07 lakhs for both collegiate and secondary education. On the other hand, in the Punjab, the expenditure for 1926-27 was 48·19 lakhs for elementary education and 27·46 lakhs for both secondary and collegiate education; in the United Provinces 64·45 lakhs for elementary education and 35·52 lakhs for secondary and collegiate education; in Bengal 18·15 lakhs for elementary education and 30·10 lakhs for secondary and collegiate education; and in Bombay about 102·20 lakhs for elementary education and 22·62 lakhs for both secondary and collegiate education. So, you will see that only one provincial Government, namely, Bombay is spending more than the money that we are spending on elementary education. . ."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" What is the cost per head ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am sorry that I have not had the time to work that matter out, but if my hon. Friend raises the question during the budget time on the voting of grants, I shall certainly be prepared to answer the important point that he has raised. Some of the hon. Members, especially the Zamindar of Gollapalli referred to the fact that we are treating the Andhra University on the analogy of showing the child the moon. I do not think that charge can be levelled against me, because my hon. Friend the Finance Member has agreed that the Government ought to treat the Andhra University in the same manner as they have treated the Annamalai University and he has explained in his budget speech that he proposes to give an endowment of 27 lakhs to the Andhra University and other conveniences that have been afforded to the Annamalai University."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Unconditionally ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is no question of condition, because, if the Andhra University is to progress they will have to get money from other sources besides the amount they get from us, as the expenditure on the university will be such that they shall have to get further funds.

" We have heard also that technological subjects have not been given enough importance in the Education budget. As I said last year, we are trying to convert the Engineering College at Madras into a technological institute, but proposals were not ready for this budget. I hope it will be possible for such proposals to be ready for the 1930-31 budget. But, before any such proposals could be made we have to get an adequate staff who will be able to impart this kind of knowledge, as without proper teachers it will be impossible to introduce this new kind of education in this province in a day.

" The Zamindar of Gollapalli also referred to the question of the adoption of vernacular as the medium of instruction in schools. As hon. Members know, at present vernacular is being used as the medium of instruction up to the third form, but with regard to the other three forms, we have already stated that the schools could teach in the vernacular if they wish to, but that has had no effect so far. (Voices from Congress benches : Hear, hear.) We are

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trying to devise methods by which it will be possible to adopt the vernacular as the medium of instruction also in the higher classes of the secondary schools.

"Of course, the question of compulsory elementary education was raised by more than one Member of this House. The immensity of this problem will be understood if I tell the House what sum will be necessary for the introduction of compulsory primary education. On a rough estimate of my hon. Friend the Finance Member, he said it would come to $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores. I am sorry, I have to disagree with him on this immense problem. As far as I have worked it out, I think it will be rather nearer 12 than 6 crores (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: He is modest). So, my hon. Friends will understand, what will be the cost of this scheme, but I am one with hon. Members that this must be tried. We are now trying in rural areas, for instance in the Saidapet taluk board we have introduced compulsory education and we shall have to wait and see the progress in that area and see whether it cannot be slowly spread from district to district. We are also further trying compulsory primary education in several unions now in the Tanjore district where education has advanced more than in other districts and we shall also know the result of that experiment before long.

"Mr. Siva Raj suggested that compulsory education should begin in the cheries first. But in the Tiruvadi union where it is being tried now, the depressed class children are first compelled to attend the schools. (A voice: Separate schools.) No, not separate schools. It is a compulsory area, where they have to attend the same school. Unfortunately, it is not the fault of the depressed class children, because people take away their children where depressed class students are admitted. That is the problem which is facing the authorities who have introduced this compulsory system in the Tiruvadi union. The latest report received shows that wherever depressed class students are admitted, other parents withdraw their children.

"But the department has been instructed to look to this; and if the children do go away from such schools and even though the classes are empty, it is resolved to continue these schools so that these higher classes can be taught a lesson; as when they go in search of other schools and fail to get admission there, they will be forced to return to these schools once again." 2-45 p.m.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"Will it be possible?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. Shetty raised the question of schools for co-education of boys and girls. That is certainly an important point and we propose to try this by opening schools for girls and giving education for boys and girls together till the fifth standard. The question of adult education is a very important one and Mr. Shetty rightly referred to the system as obtains in the Punjab. Some societies like the Servants of India Society and others have come to help us in adult education and we are trying to utilize the services of various social workers in this matter.

"Mr. Basheer Ahmad referred to the question of Muhammadan education. And the budget has provided for opening separate Muhammadan schools. But we are trying to see whether it will not be possible for both Muhammadan and Hindu children to go to the same school, especially in areas where the language difficulty is not present. Of course the objection raised is that there will be no religious instruction in such schools. And the only solution for that is to make separate arrangements for it. Mr. Uppi Sahib said that the district of Malabar should be divided into two. I take it he meant by it that

the district should be divided into two for the purpose of education ; i.e., he wanted that there should be two educational officers, and that has been approved by the Finance Committee ; and we shall soon put into practice.

"Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, the champion of women's cause in this House raised the question of female education. I would prefer to call it education of women rather than female education. I am glad she realizes that Government have done what they can by opening more schools ; and more money has been provided this year on this account. She raised the question that there is no hostel for the Lady Willingdon College, while there are the separate hostels open to widows, the non-Brahman Hindus and the Indian Christians. The question is pertinently raised why there should not be one hostel for all, and I think it is high time that we had one hostel. It is now proposed to have a hostel open to all classes of pupils irrespective of caste or religion for the Lady Willingdon College. (Hear, hear.)

"The question of conveyance for Muslim girls was also raised by some hon. Members of this House and by Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi. The question has been settled very recently and Government are going to provide Muslim girls with conveyances in schools where there are classes above the fifth standard. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why?) Because we have to go slowly ; and further one of your Muslim friends asked for that only. Therefore first set your own House in order. (Cries of Oh.)

"Mr. President, I have dealt with most of the problems raised in the debate so far. And I hope to answer some of the other points raised during the voting of grants."

* The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, in the discussion that took place in the House for the last two days I have been listening to a number of suggestions on the various departments under my administration, and I am glad I have received some very valuable suggestions. I do not think it will be possible for me in the short space of time that I can command now to answer all the points. I propose to touch only on a few of them and it does not mean that all those that are not touched upon do not require consideration.

"First dealing with Medicine there is one criticism that money that was granted to the department has been allowed to lapse and that this is due to the lack of proper administration. I want to bring before the notice of hon. Members of this House this fact, namely, that certain institutions are under the charge of Government and that a larger number of the institutions are under the management of local bodies. To the latter class belong the rural dispensaires which were started during the last three years. We made provision for at least three dispensaries for every taluk board ; and we invited opinion from the local boards as to have a fourth dispensary in each area and we budgeted to open 70 rural dispensaries more. Unfortunately we found they were not coming forward to start them and hence there is a good deal of lapse in this grant.

"Then, Sir, lapse comes in this way. Some officers go on leave and in their place the junior officers are posted. And these junior officers receive less salary and lapses occur.

"Then, Sir, some criticism was levelled against the tuberculosis hospital. This has been under the consideration of the Government for the last ten years. The location of this hospital has been the subject of consideration and

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discussion for over seven or eight years and finally it was decided in 1925 to locate this hospital in the Spur Tank. In 1925 a token motion was moved in this Council for a sum of Rs. 100 for the location of the hospital in Spur Tank, and the location was sanctioned by this Council and the grant was made. After this plans and estimates were prepared and in February 1928 a Government Order was passed sanctioning the estimates and in the Budget for 1928–29 provision was made for the hospital. And this was passed after complete deliberation. We heard no complaint about it till January of this year till the construction was begun. Hon. Members of this House refer to a resolution of the Corporation. May I ask what these members of the Corporation were doing all these ten years? I am not suggesting for a moment that Government are not going to give any consideration to the objections put forward. What I wish to say is that they place Government at a very great disadvantage. Probably we may have to enter into negotiations with the contractor if the scheme is harmful; but medical opinion so far is not of that view. Anyhow hon. Members must be aware of the fact that some loss will have to be incurred if the location is to be shifted to another place. Citizens also have a responsibility in the matter and they ought to have complained long ago, if the location was really harmful.

"As regards the Gosha Hospital, Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi said that no provision has been made for it. I submit that plans and estimates were called for, the scheme was placed before the Finance Committee and it has sanctioned it. Subsequently expert opinion was in favour of alteration of the plans that is being done now. As soon as it is ready Government will undertake it. Even if there is no fund available in the budget, Government hope to provide for it from the Endowment fund if the scheme is sanctioned and if this Council approves of it. Hon. Members were complaining that quinine was not properly distributed. You will remember this is an experiment and you must understand what an experiment means. In starting this there will be some difficulty in the matter of distribution and in its proper utilization. That is why it is called an experiment. It was started in last November and December in various places and in the budget that has been presented there is an increase of the grant by about Rs. 20,000.

"There is one other matter, and that is the question of Indianization of the services. Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar referred yesterday to the fact that his policy was to Indianize the services as much as possible, and that he heard vague rumours, which he hoped were not true, that that policy has been changed and that there is an attempt to bring more and more of Englishmen, giving the go-by to the recommendations of the Lee Commission. I may say that the recommendations have nothing to do with the services except the Indian Medical Service. We have only to Indianize the medical service so far as the recommendations have been accepted by the Secretary of State and they are being given effect to. That is all what we can do. It is said that we have created a number of posts, advertisements were made in England and Englishmen were appointed. How far this criticism is well-founded I will leave it to the hon. Member himself to decide. I shall state a few facts here and you will see what basis is there for the rumour. Some special posts were created and they are as follows:—

Lecturer in diseases of nose and ears—Mr. P. V. Cherian.
Professor of Pharmacology—Mr. David.

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Professor of Physiology—Mr. B. T. Krishnan.
Specialist in venereal diseases—Dr. Happer.
Professor of Bacteriology—Dr. Ramakrishnan.

3 p.m. "Of these various special appointments which have been made, the only European gentleman is Dr. Happer and this resolution to recruit by advertisement was come to by this Government in 1927 and the advertisement was made under instructions from my friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. Applications were received in 1928 and we had to make a selection. Certainly the hon. Member will not be justified in saying 'Of the applications received even in reply to the advertisements made in England, we ought to have rejected all Europeans.' I do not believe that when advertising in England, it was the policy to exclude Europeans as Europeans but that the policy was to choose the best among the candidates. Of the 50 or so applicants, some were Europeans and some were Indians. We considered that this gentleman was the best of the lot.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Has he been confirmed ?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"He has been appointed."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Is it temporarily or permanently ?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"It is a special appointment for a period. He was appointed in December 1928 and wherefrom the hon. Member got the idea that we are giving up his policy of Indianization and a new departure has been started, I am not able to understand."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"By whom was he selected."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"By people competent to judge about it."

(Several interruptions)

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I request the hon. the Minister not to mind interruptions."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"What about deputations."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—

"That is an interruption I have to answer Mr President.

"We have sent on deputation the following :—

Dr. Venkatasubba Rao for mental diseases,
Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar and Mrs. John for Pediatrics,
Dr. David for Pharmacology, and
Dr. Guruswami for Therapentics.

"This policy of sending people to England to acquire knowledge in special subjects has not been given up and I can assure my hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar that his criticism is wrong.

"Then the hon. Member for Nilgiris Mr. Davis referred to the hardships under which the Anglo-Indian nurses in the General Hospital are working. We have made enquiries about the matter and we are told that the hardships to which he referred are not really existing.

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"Further a Committee was appointed last year to go into the question of the re-organization of the nursing staff and they have made their recommendations and the financial aspect of these recommendations are being worked out and effect will be given to them as soon as we come to a conclusion in the matter.

"Mr. Tajuddin referred to the want of proper nursing staff in the Vizagapatam Medical College. This is also a matter which is receiving consideration at the hands of Government.

"As regards the drainage in the Vizagapatam hospital, the hospital is in the course of construction and the drainage will, I believe, be attended to in the usual course during the construction of the hospital.

"Then coming to the department of Public Health he said that adequate grants are not made for water-supply. As hon. Members know, water-supply is a matter entirely under the control of local bodies. The Government make a grant for such of those local bodies as are willing to undertake these schemes and the Government give them the necessary aid both in the way of advice from the Sanitary Department regarding investigations and also money in the way of half grants. The Government called for a programme from the various local bodies as to what they would do in this direction and assured them that they would be helped in carrying them out. During the past three or four years according to the scheme they sent, grants were provided for local bodies to carry out the schemes. In spite of their saying that they would carry out the work in such and such year they have not been able to do much and we have not been able to disburse the grants made. So it is for the local bodies to carry out the works in time. If the hon. Members of the opposition and those on this side who are members of local bodies will see that the local bodies carry out these things expeditiously, the Government will not make any delay in the matter and my only regret is that the grants which Government are prepared to disburse are not taken by the people for whom they are intended.

"The hon. Member Dr. Mallayya referred to the City water-supply. He said that the question of filter beds was not being considered by the Government. I believe Dr. Mallayya remembers that he and I saw the filter beds and the whole allied things the other day. The question whether filter beds are to be built or a new mode of filtering is to be adopted has been a matter of experiment for about two years by the City Water Filteration Committee of which Dr. Mallayya is a member. If that Committee took two years to carry on their experiment and had not sent the report yet, how he will be justified in accusing the Government, I am unable to see. They said that they will make experiments and come to a conclusion and let the Government have the benefit of their advice. The Government have been eagerly awaiting it and it is yet to come.

"Then he referred to the matter of the Red Hills and wanted that Government should not allow the water of the Red Hills tank for agricultural purposes. Dr. Mallaya happens to be a member of the City Water-supply Improvement Committee which is going into the matter and that Committee came to the conclusion that the lands under the Red Hills ought to be acquired to secure proper supply of water to the needs of the City people. What action the Corporation has taken on it? They passed a resolution and forwarded it to the Government. What is the aid they want?

"Several voices. Money."

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"Money means two lakhs or 20 lakhs. They must know the extent of the land to be acquired and also what it would cost if the lands are to be acquired or what amount is required if they want to acquire the irrigation rights alone. If they can get the figures and inform the Government the actual amount required, the Government will be prepared to consider the question of meeting half the cost and also advance the other half by way of loan. There is no use of their coming here and saying 'We have passed a resolution'. It is true the Government have received a copy of the resolution and have asked for further information and if the information is not given, I say 'We cannot proceed'."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Why not you remind us?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"If the City fathers want a reminder from the Government, I suppose there will not be much difficulty in sending reminders but I do not think there will be any use of them.

"Then I come to the most important question which has been criticised by this Council and that is the matter of Excise. I want to inform this House that I have not changed my views in regard to this matter as some hon. Members seem to think. I want to inform this House also that this matter of Excise is engaging the attention of the Government and is a matter on which everybody is hitting without knowing what they are hitting at. This matter has been engaging the attention of the Government and resolutions have been passed once, I think, during the first Council and again in 1926 that prohibition should be attained in 20 years. This is the period mentioned in the first Council and this again was repeated in the second Council. It really shows how the gentlemen that passed the resolution think of it. If the gentlemen were really sincere they ought to have put in 17 years in the second Council. Perhaps what they meant was passing a resolution not of course to be strictly followed. But the Government has done what it can under the circumstances.

"Mr. Madhavan Nayar and other hon. Members made a suggestion 'Why not introduce total prohibition in two districts? Why not take this place 'and that' and such other suggestions. Before entering into a general discussion of this subject, I will attempt to place before this Council what has actually been done before dealing with what is actually proposed to be done.

"Now, Sir, hon. Members know that the prohition of the sale of arrack was introduced as an experimental measure in five taluks in the Presidency —Shiyali, Tirutturaippundi, Tiruvadanai (in the Ramnad district), Tenkasi in Tinnevelly and Attur in the Salem districts. Of these five taluks where it was introduced, it is found that in three of these places it is fairly a success and in the other two places, I regret to say that it has not been a success. But in spite of that in one of the places where it has been found a success, that is in Tiruvadanai in the Ramnad district, finding that it is a success Government have decided to extend the experiment to the neighbouring taluk of Paramakudi also from the next year. Orders have been issued to that effect, that is to say, from April 1929 the prohibition experiment will be carried on in a more extended area. This experiment was started three or four years ago and the result of it is that it was a success in half the area and was not a success in the other half. One of the things observed in that area where there was success is the increase in the consumption of foreign liquor. People addicted to arrack resorted to foreign liquor.

(Several interruptions)

Hon. Members may congratulate themselves on finding that the tax which was going into the coffers of this Government was diverted to the coffers of the India Government. That was the result of the experiment which was carried. But we think that this is not good and from April 1929 we are going to close all the foreign liquor shops in that area. If that is not considered to be a practical advance, then I want the hon. Members to suggest further practical measures and Government will consider moving in that direction.

"Then hon. Members have been saying 'Why not introduce prohibition in two districts.' That was a matter which was considered by the previous minister in charge of excise. I do not think I can disclose everything connected with that but this I submit that the hon. Member was coquetting with it for about a year and then dropped it like a hot potato."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"As a matter of personal statement, I desire to say that the hon. Member's statement is wrong."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"And the pronouncement which was made in this House by the hon. the Chief Minister during the last budget debate that it was a matter for the Central Government was the result of the scheme which was started by my hon. Colleague Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. (A voice: 'Do you agree with that view ?'). The question is not whether I agree with that view or not, but it is a heritage left by the old Ministry to the present Ministry. (Mr. Sami Venkatachelam Chetti :—'Then disown the heritage'.) Then, Mr. President, some other things which are suggested to be carried on, in regard to this policy of prohibition are the closing of shops and the restricting of the issue of liquor. As has been suggested already, it is being carried on for the last five or six years, and I may say that in April 1928, one of the shops which had been sold in Kotagiri was ordered to be closed even though the sale had been concluded. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'What a great thing ; one shop for the whole province'.) I am coming to that. You need not be anxious about it, many more shops have been closed in the new sales. The inhabitants of the Nilgiris district were saying that though the sale of arrack to these Badaga people was prohibited, other people were purchasing beer and arrack from these shops and giving it to the Badagas outside. And this year we have issued a rule that whatever is purchased by people it must be consumed on the premises and should not be taken out, so that these Badagas will not have this liquor supplied to them by outsiders who purchase liquor in these shops. These are some of the steps that I have been able to carry forward as practical measures towards prohibition. Rationing is one of the things which have been suggested. Not only this measure but various other measures which have been suggested towards prohibition in Bombay have also been tried in Bombay. And day before yesterday I read a telegram of the Government of Bombay an announcement of the Bombay Government saying that every one of the measures they adopted towards this prohibition has been a failure and they are therefore reconsidering the whole subject and if possible adopt other measures. But we are not going to be discouraged by the failure of these experiments in Bombay. But we want to profit by it and proceed cautiously and not land ourselves in situations from which we may not be able to extricate. And as a practical step towards this measure of rationing we have in the course of this year decided that in three municipalities in the Vizagapatam district, namely, Vizagapatam,

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Vizianagram and Bimlipatam, there ought to be rationing worked to a certain extent and we will watch the results of this experiment. If it proves a success and is worth pursuing, and the results are such that will encourage the Government to pursue that experiment in other areas, I may assure the House that we will try that experiment in other places which are equally or more suitable. These are the practical measures which we have attempted to carry out.

" And now, I come to the question of this propaganda which I believe supplied a target which all people think they can hit. My hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar I believe made a humorous remark that propaganda will have the effect of increasing the drink evil (hear, hear) and the effect of putting into the minds of young people the idea of drinking, people who know nothing of drink, and tempt them to go to a liquor shop. Mr. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, the hon. Member for Coimbatore, has sufficiently answered that criticism, and if my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar still persists in that criticism may I ask him why the Congress which met in Calcutta in December last, as late as two months ago passed a resolution that propaganda ought to be carried on for the purpose of bringing about this prohibition? (A voice: 'That is for prohibition'.) If prohibition propaganda or temperance propaganda can be carried on by Congress workers, I do not really see why it cannot be carried on by our people, by our Government. My hon. Friends have been trying to understand or misunderstand the meaning of the word 'temperance'. They seem to think that temperance propaganda means drink propaganda. Temperance if you refer to the dictionary you will find means moderation in anything (hear, hear). But may I ask if my hon. Friends seriously think that any temperance organization that exists in this country or any other country would say 'drink in moderation'? If my hon. Friends will not care to understand what temperance propaganda means and temperance means, I cannot help it. Temperance certainly does not mean in the ordinary connotation of the term as understood by these temperance organizations 'drink in moderation.' These voluntary temperance organizations carry on propaganda only by preaching to the people 'don't drink.' That is the propaganda they are carrying on. That is the propaganda that is being carried on in any country, and anybody who has any knowledge of temperance propaganda in various countries understands it as propaganda against drink, but not against excessive drink. This is the propaganda that is going on in America, England and other countries. My hon. Colleagues ask 'Why should the Government carry on this propaganda? Why not you legislate and abolish this evil in this one province?' May I say, Sir, that the seventeenth amendment to the constitution of the United States of America in about the year 1920 was the result of this propaganda that had been going on for over half a century in America, and it was as a result of this propaganda carried on so long that the various States resolved to ask the Federal Government for a prohibition measure. It is on the application of all these individual Governments that this prohibition has been introduced into the United States of America. This propaganda was carried on all over the continent of the United States to such an extent that they made a demand upon the Federal Government for legislation on these lines. And that was done in the year 1919 or 1920. But do they yet feel themselves satisfied with this legislation? Mr. Pussyfoot Johnson who came here two days ago says that propaganda is still necessary in America

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and is yet being carried on. If hon. Members of this House think that everything can be done by legislation and the morals and the conduct of the people can be regulated only by law, then why should this propaganda be carried on in America where they had to carry on the propaganda for over fifty years before they could introduce prohibition as a practical measure? The commandment 'Thou shalt not steal' may be all right, but if 90 per cent of the people think that stealing is honest, does any man reasonably believe that stealth can be put down by legislation by means of an amendment or a section in the Penal Code? If the consensus of opinion be that people shall not steal or commit adultery, and there is only one man or two out of a hundred that commit these crimes, then the popular opinion will be against it, and it can be put down. But if 90 per cent of the people think of coveting other people's property, and such a thing is the order of the day, then do you think that morality or any ethical principles can be introduced by means of legislation in such a state? The Government cannot carry out any measure with success without an assurance that the whole country is behind them, and will zealously help them in their policy. It is true that prohibition or total abstinence as I understand it is the goal of this Government as resolved upon by this legislature. But the Government have to undertake practical measures to carry out that policy. I do not claim, nor pride myself that what has been done are very large measures. These are the starting measures or the initial stages in this experiment. And to prepare the people for the greater ideal which all of you want to attain, and which from the despatches of the Secretary of State and the Government of India I believe the Government also wants to attain, then, this propaganda is necessary to ensure the success of any measure of prohibition or temperance or abstinence, by whatever name you call it. So far as I understand it, these words mean the same thing. The whole position comes to this, that to ensure the success of all these measures that may be undertaken in the future, propaganda is necessary, and I am glad two hon. Members of the Opposition, Mr. Madhavan Nayar and Mr. Ramasomayajulu, said 'We welcome this measure of propaganda but only we have not the whole scheme laid before us'. Certainly they are entitled to ask and I shall try to answer them. Mr. Ramasomayajulu said yesterday that four lakhs would not be enough for this propaganda work. I entirely agree. I did not make a demand for a greater amount because the scheme was not complete by the time I made the demand, and I myself did not fully know what to do with the money I got. As hon. Members are saying that the scheme is not complete, let us understand in what sense it is not complete. In regard to this demand for four lakhs it was stated in the note circulated to the Finance Committee, that out of this amount, for distribution to local boards and municipalities which will undertake this propaganda a sum of Rs. 1 lakh is to be set apart. And every district is to be given Rs. 10,000. And for the central office which is to issue leaflets and pamphlets and to prepare the necessary material for this propaganda a sum of Rs. 50,000 has to be provided. So that, the scheme is complete. But the scheme may be said not to be complete in the sense that it is not yet settled whether A, B or C in the district of Chingleput is to get this money. We have asked the taluk boards, temperance organizations and other people as to what they will be able to do in this connexion, and they are still sending their answers. So the scheme may be said to be not complete in this sense only, because the replies are yet to be received from some bodies and we cannot work the final method as to

the way in which the money is to be distributed before the whole information is in our hands. That is the only sense in which the scheme is not complete, and that is why it was stated in the note to the Finance Committee that the details of the distribution of this amount of four lakhs would be settled later on.

"Now, as regards propaganda itself, hon. Members have been frequently saying 'elections', 'elections'. I know election is looming large in the eyes of some of the hon. Members; I do admit they are fully in need of election agents. If they want these agents to be utilized by themselves, I am perfectly willing to allow them. Let them have it for themselves."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"The cat is out of the bag."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The cat was out of the bag yesterday, when you said 'elections'. If they want these agents for themselves we are quite willing to allow them to utilize their services for themselves. But seriously speaking, to say that these district boards and municipalities and these temperance organizations which have been in existence for such a long time and which are to be started hereafter are going to do propaganda work on behalf of one particular candidate or another is a matter which I think no reasonable Member of this House will believe. These are the main details of the scheme which we propose to work, and it is said that this Council has not been given sufficient opportunity to discuss this matter. . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I request the hon. Member to give sufficient opportunity to his colleagues on the Treasury bench."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I am sorry, Mr. President. I am closing in a minute. I only wanted to say that this had been the subject-matter of questions in this House, and on many occasions you yourselves thought, Sir, that the limits of interpellations were greatly transgressed, and there were elaborate discussions. I fully laid the scheme before the House, and in the course of those questions and answers the whole scheme was discussed and hon. Members may refer to the proceedings of the Council relating to this matter for further information."

3-30 p.m. The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am obliged to the various observations and criticisms of the hon. Members on the floor of this House as I always welcome criticisms and suggestions which are calculated to better the working of the various departments under my charge.

"So far as almost all the departments are concerned, we are on the eve of great changes consequent on the recommendations made by the several committees appointed to investigate the working of the departments and to recommend ways and means by which the usefulness of the departments may be enhanced in that they might secure national growth and national advancement.

"Taking the department of Agriculture, the recommendations of the Royal Commission are before us. The Director of Agriculture was requested to prepare and submit a detailed scheme of reorganization and development of the department.

"The Director now submits a scheme of reorganization with a programme of work for the next ten years. This programme is designed to generally co-ordinate all the work of the department and to level it up in order to reach a point from which future development can proceed on a systematic plan over a series of years.

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"Some of the hon. Members on the floor of this House are of the view that except creating a few appointments there seems to be no policy guiding the administration. (Hear, hear.) I am afraid this observation is not borne by facts. (Mr. Satyamurti: What are they?) You will know later on. Judged by the results such an observation cannot stand any test. To enumerate the various benefits which this department has conferred on the agriculturists, would be unnecessary (laughter) as the report of the working of the department will clearly show that the results have amply justified the monies (Mr. Satyamurti: What are they?) expended on it. To cite one or two instances, I may refer the hon. Members to the production of cotton and the great advance we have made in that commercial crop. Our cotton is now well recognized in the chief markets and the increasing attention now devoted to it would enhance its reputation and augment the income of the producers. Another is the paddy-breeding stations started by the Government. The one at Aduturai is appreciated by the public of Trichinopoly and Tanjore for the useful work it is doing. As regards re-organization proposals, there has been a criticism that more officers have been proposed and that there is a dearth of demonstration agency in the districts. The need for augmenting the staff of demonstrators is necessary as it is they that carry the improvements effected to the very doors of the ryots. As regards the need for higher administrative officers, I may say that already the subordinate staff has outstripped the capacity of supervision by the higher agency. Unless the work is watched and directed properly much of the efforts of the lower staff will be wasted and infructuous. The addition proposed is therefore chiefly intended to ensure that the work is directed on proper lines and that full value is obtained for the staff we are employing. I should think that an agricultural country like India should not grudge any expense in improving this industry which is the mainstay of the people. My hon. Friend Mr. Shetty aptly referred to the low percentage of the amount expended on this department as compared with Japan and United States of America where the agricultural population is comparatively of a low percentage. The hon. Member from Salem referred to the cattle farm at Hosur. Need I say that the cattle are the backbone of Indian agriculture and we need good milch cows from the point of view of public health also. The chief aim of our cattle farm is to produce dual purpose animal and gradually improve the main types of cattle. The same hon. Member has referred to certain buildings and farms. They are not for new ones, but for completion of those in building. With reference to the cattle farm at Chintaladevi, I shall take the suggestion of the hon. Member, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, and will not sanction the estimate unless on personal inspection I am convinced of the need.

"The hon. House will be aware that we deliberately launched on a scheme of reducing the superior element and substituting cheaper agency in the Co-operative department, some five years back. I regret to say that it is not worked satisfactorily. (A voice: Oh.) Experience as well as expert opinion borne out by the Townshend Committee's recommendations have forced us to the conclusion that if the department is to expand and if the movement is to proceed on right lines, a superior officer is required in each district. This reorganization has been agreed to by the Government. It is not intended to supersede any of the functions now discharged by non-official agencies. Our staff will be more useful in co-ordinating the activities and directing the non-official energies into right directions and getting more

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results. It should not be considered that our policy of increasing the higher ranks is an attempt to provide for more officers but it is a genuine endeavour to face the actual complicated problems which have to be solved, if the movement is to confer real benefit.

"We are also providing for a central land mortgage bank at Madras without which many of the local mortgage banks are not likely to do any beneficial work. We are also providing for a special mortgage bank for the Badagas of the Nilgiris.

"Turning now to the Department of Industries, hon. Members are aware that a committee was appointed to go into the question of textile industry and their recommendations are before us. After full deliberations the Committee submitted their recommendations which are being considered and I hope to give effect to the main substance of their recommendations at an early date. I may also refer in this connexion for the information of the hon. Members that a survey of cottage industries in the several districts was made and reports are expected before the 31st March. When they are received I hope to be in a position to organize a central emporium, a central weavers' society which will bring to the notice of the consuming public whatever village handicrafts are in a position to offer them and thus to create a demand for their wares and improve their working conditions.

"With regard to the observation that attention to technical education is inadequate, I may say that provision has been made for three new schools. They will be at Mangalore, Calicut and Bellary. The total expenditure will be Rs. 1,11,000 under recurring and Rs. 1,22,000 under non-recurring. We are also increasing the grants for aided schools. I may say for the information of this House that there are now more than 50 students undergoing instruction (A voice: 50 is poor)—more accommodation is not available—in the Textile Institute at Madras. It is not nine as observed by the hon. Member. We have also recently increased the number of scholarships available in the school with a view to attracting the right class of students.

"As regards the position of the Government with reference to the Carnatic Paper Mills, the House is aware of the terms which were offered to the company to redeem the mortgage. Unfortunately the position has been complicated by the subsequent winding up of the company and the appointment of an official liquidator. I am very anxious to do all that I can for the shareholders who have now formed a new company, but some legal questions (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Mr. Natarajan!) require examination and I shall shortly be in a position to decide how best we could settle this tangled affair. I shall give full opportunities to the shareholders represented by Mr. Narayana Rao and others to place their views before Government come to any conclusion on the question.

"Coming to the Veterinary department, new circles have to be created with a view to combat effectively the rising tide of rinderpest menace in the districts by serum simultaneous process. This method was found to be very effective and the results obtained so far are encouraging. We are reducing the virus required in our own laboratory and we have proposals which I hope we could be in a position to sanction in the course of the year for the opening of a serum institute, on which many hon. Members laid emphasis in their reference to the work of this department. Provision has also been made for

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extension of hospitals and touring assistants. My attention has been drawn to the low pay of veterinary assistants. I have reason to think that there is a genuine discontent on this question and I hope to take up this question in the course of the year and see if the position could be improved.

" Then coming to the Public Works Department certain observations were made with regard to the lapses of grants. I have nothing to add to what the hon. the Finance Member has stated in his speech.

" With regard to the observations of my Friend from the Central Districts Christian constituency, who is also a retired Superintending Engineer, and knows more about the subject, than many of us, I have certain remarks to offer. He has stated that under Civil Works there is an increase of 53 lakhs over the figures of last year. This is not correct. What he means apparently is that the difference between the revised estimate for the current year and the budget estimate for the next year, is 53 lakhs. But in the budget you will find that the budget estimate for the current year is 222 lakhs as against 240 lakhs for the next year. The difference is therefore 18 lakhs. Of the 18 lakhs, 7 lakhs are for transfer to the local bodies, 3 lakhs for improvement of the agency tracts, and 7 lakhs only have been allotted for public buildings—of which 4 lakhs go to the construction of the Officers' quarters at Ellore, the headquarters of the West Godavari district. Therefore 1 lakh only goes to the establishment charges.

" My hon. Friend has further remarked that the expenditure on establishments has increased year after year. As an old and experienced officer of the Public Works Department he is well aware of the fact that the expenditure on establishments in the Public Works Department rises with the expenditure on works. He will have seen from the Finance Member's speech that while the provision for Public Works (both Civil Works and Irrigation) in 1920-21 was 118 lakhs, the provision in the current year was double that amount, excluding the provision of one crore for the Mettur project. As is well known to my hon. Friends, in 1922-23 drastic reductions in Public Works Department establishment were made. In that year, the number of circles was reduced from seven to five. What we have done is that one additional circle has since been formed, namely, the Tanjore circle in the interests of the Cauvery delta works and another circle is to be formed next year at Dowlaishwaram in the interests of the works in the Godavari delta. With this latter addition, the number of circles will be the same as it was in 1920-21, while the expenditure on works has nearly doubled. Is this a matter for adverse comment? Again, unlike other provinces, we have one common staff for both Irrigation and Roads and Buildings in this Presidency. Besides the large irrigation systems like the Godavari, Kistna and Cauvery, there are a number of small systems and also a large number of tanks and channels. Some minimum establishment is necessary to look after the maintenance of all these irrigation works, scattered throughout the Presidency. As compared with other provinces, the expenditure on establishment in the Madras Public Works Department is distinctly smaller.

" There is one other suggestion that has emanated from the hon. Member for the Central Districts Christian constituency. It is the entrusting of works to private contractors and engineers. I do not quite understand what he really means. If he refers to professional contractors, he means that there are really not many professional contractors in this Presidency. (A voice:

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'European contractors!') So far as I am aware there are besides Messrs. Jackson and Barker, another firm composed of my hon. Friend and another retired Chief Engineer, who have started private practice in the name of Ayyar and Mudaliyar and a firm of two other retired assistant engineers of the Public Works Department. All these are stationed in Madras. I know of no professional contractors in the mufassal. Again, almost all the works of the Public Works Department on the Civil Works side are now given out on contract and lately the system of lump sum contracts has been introduced and the Government are taking all possible steps to popularise this system. Under this system, the minimum establishment is employed. This is necessary to safeguard the interests of Government, whatever agency may be employed for the execution of works, I believe my hon. Friend will admit that a resident engineer or some other officer to watch the interests of Government is necessary.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Davis has spoken about the work of the Sanitary Engineering Department. He has suggested that minor works may be entrusted to local bodies, the more important works being carried out by the Public Works Department. This practice is already in force; in fact it is only the bigger works for water-supply and drainage that are entrusted to Public Works Department for execution. He has also referred to the delay in the investigation of water-supply to Ootacamund and other schemes. I will look into the matter and see how far there were avoidable delays and what steps could be taken to minimise such delays."

*The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, my Friend from the Bellary district referred to the Alipuram Jail and stated that the jail might be made permanent or it might be abolished; and in case the latter suggestion is adopted, he has suggested also that the prisoners who are there now may be distributed among the different jails in the Presidency. He also stated that if it is not intended to retain this Alipuram Jail as a permanent institution, there was no need whatever to have spent such a large amount, as he put it, of about Rs. 60,000 for the construction of a tuberculosis hospital connected with this institution. My friends Messrs. Uppi Sahib and Schamnad also referred to the Mappilla prisoners and pleaded for their release. One of them—I forgot who—pleaded for a general amnesty for all these prisoners. (Hear, hear.) Now, the position with reference to these Mappilla prisoners of the Alipuram Jail is this. As my friends in the Council are aware, this Alipuram Jail was established in the year 1921 in consequence of the outbreak of the Mappilla rebellion, and since then, after the rebellion was over, a system has been adopted by the Government under which these Mappilla prisoners have been released in batches. Originally, the number of prisoners (I am speaking in round numbers) in the Alipuram Jail was about 4,500. Now (i.e., by the end of this month or the next), the number will have been reduced to about 2,000.

3-45 p.m. "In fact, large numbers have been already released. As a matter of fact, from November about 300 prisoners have been released and, from the 1st March, i.e., from yesterday, another large batch is being released at intervals of 15 days, i.e., on the 1st and 15th of every month. (Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Time-expired prisoners?') Not time-expired prisoners. The time-expired prisoners are released in the usual course. These prisioners of whom I am referring are not those whose period has expired. They are being released

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under a scheme which has been adopted by the Government. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : What is the scheme?) According to this scheme, all the Mappilla prisoners in the Alipuram Jail will have been released completely by the year 1936. (Cries of 'Oh'.) The question as to what is to become of this institution after that year is under the consideration of Government and the Government have not come to any conclusion so far. There are various suggestions before the Government with reference to this jail. (Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed : Another rebellion.) It is stated that this jail may be used as a place where people who have been transported for life may be kept. (Cries of : 'The Andamans.') My friends are aware that the Andamans are no longer available as a penal colony. It is therefore necessary to keep these prisoners who have been transported for life in some other place. Another suggestion is that this jail may be used for the purpose of confining the incorrigibles or habitual offenders. A third suggestion is that this building may be used as a jail where prisoners who could not be accommodated in other jails for want of room might be lodged. In any case, there is no hurry to come to a conclusion on this question as to whether this jail should be closed down altogether or kept on. (Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed : For another rebellion.)

"My hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hye stated again, that there was no need to spend Rs. 60,000 on the construction of a Tuberculosis Hospital in connexion with this institution. I may say that his information is incorrect. No doubt a Tuberculosis Hospital is being constructed there. But that has nothing to do with the Alipuram Jail, where the Mappilla prisoners are kept. As a matter of fact medical authorities have reported that the climate of Bellary is quite fit for prisoners suffering from this disease and it is for this purpose, namely, for keeping those prisoners who are suffering from consumption that the tuberculosis hospital is being constructed there. It has nothing to do with the Alipuram Jail. So far, with reference to the suggestions and opinions that have been expressed with reference to this jail and the release of the Mappilla prisoners.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Thomas from Tinnevelly referred to the grievances of the ryots in the matter of grazing and my Friend from Kurnool Mr. Sarabha Reddi also referred to the same point. I believe Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar also referred to it. With reference to this, What I have to state is this : On a former occasion I referred in this House to the fact of the whole scheme of the forest administration being under consideration. The Government have called for information on various points with reference to the detailed working of the forests from the Chief Conservator of Forests and that information is being collected. It will be some months before the information is placed before the Government. When that information is received the Government will consider and decide the whole policy inclusive of the policy relating to this question which has been raised by my friends. In the meanwhile I may tell my friends Mr. Sarabha Reddi and Mr. Thomas that if they will give me information with reference to particular villages naming them where this alleged grievance exists, I shall be glad to consider and remedy them even before the Government comes to a conclusion on the general policy and the working of the Forest Department.

"My Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar particularly referred to two aspects of this forest question. He referred to the working of the Chenat Nair Exploitation Scheme and also to the Saw Mill at Olavakkot. He stated

that it has been a failure. He is quite right. It has been a failure commercially. (Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Why?) It was started as an experiment. Naturally, experiments sometimes end in success and sometimes in failure. After all, there is this fact that although commercially this has been a failure, we have gained considerable experience. (Dr. Mallayya: At whose cost?) The intention of the Government now is to close this mill; but where it is to be taken and when it is to be taken has not been decided. As a matter of fact there is a scheme relating to Amarampalam. The Government may remove this mill from Olavakkot to Amarampalam. That is all I can say. The Government have not yet come to any conclusion on this question.

" Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar again stated that the forests must be made a paying concern. He made this remark particularly with reference to sleepers. He says that there are iron sleepers used by the railways and that it is desirable to use our forest resources for the purpose of making and selling wooden sleepers. He also stated that the current opinion is that wooden sleepers are better than iron sleepers. I believe my friend is not wrong, but experts differ on this point. As a matter of fact there are some who believe that iron sleepers are very much better than wooden sleepers. (A voice: In what way?) Iron sleepers last for 30 years whereas wooden sleepers last only for 20 years. But there is this circumstance in favour of my hon Friend's suggestion, namely, that the railway companies in Switzerland and southern parts of Germany are beginning to give up iron in favour of wooden sleepers. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: In America?) I do not know anything about America. I am perfectly at one with my friend in his suggestion that the policy of the department should be to utilize our forest resources for making and selling wooden sleepers. Sir, when the scheme on the general forest policy is decided upon, my friend's suggestion will be considered. (Mr. K. V. R. Swami: We have waited for years and years.)

" My hon. Friend Mr. Thomas referred to the question of the payment of allowances and batta to jurors and assessors. This question was several times considered by the Government. I believe, speaking from memory, that in 1913 and 1920 the question was considered in all its aspects and the Government came to the conclusion that it was necessary to pay travelling allowance to jurors and assessors called to sessions courts from places which are beyond five miles from court houses. They are paid second-class allowance and batta. (Mr. K. V. R. Swami: How much batta?) Batta admissible to persons drawing second class allowance. There is this further rule that jurors and assessors visiting scenes of offence should be given actual expenses of travelling from the district court to the places visited. Now, ultimately, the question is one of cost. Of course, if we are to pay allowance to all the jurors and assessors who are summoned to courts of sessions in all the districts of the presidency the cost will come to a very large amount. (A Voice: How much?) This I can state that the whole question will be carefully considered. What the conclusion of the consideration will be it is, of course, premature for me to say now.

" My Friend Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu referred among other things to the hydro-electric scheme. I may tell my hon. Friend and other friends in this Council that the Chief Engineer for Hydro-electric working, Mr. Howard, has submitted a comprehensive scheme to the Government under which the scheme can be worked in different parts and when all those component parts of it are

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put into working order they will form one undivided and comprehensive scheme. One of these parts of the scheme has already been started and the work is proceeding very briskly. That scheme is known as the Glen-Morgan Scheme. It is expected that the scheme will be completed in the course of the year and that the Government will be able to distribute energy before the close of December. (Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar: 'That is only for Coimbatore.') This scheme will serve the Nilgiris and, I believe, the town of Coimbatore also.

"There is another part of the scheme with reference to the electrification of the railway from Mettupulaiyam to Podanur and from Erode to Shoranur. These electrification schemes of the railway can also be taken in different parts. This Government is in communication with reference to these schemes with the Railway Board. When the South Indian Railway Company and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company consent to have electrification of their railways by taking power from the Government, another part of the scheme will be put into operation. It is the ambition of the Government to have a network of electric stations throughout the Presidency. But that will take some twenty years.

"I do not know whether there are many other suggestions made in the course of the debate. However, I may tell my hon. Friends that all the suggestions made during the course of this debate will be carefully and sympathetically considered." (Many voices: 'Narayana Menon', 'Narayana Menon.').

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Davis who always champions the cause of his community in this Council has, while thanking the Government for the very liberal building grant we have provided in the budget, asked us to show greater sympathy in dealing with the affairs of his community. I can assure my hon. Friend and the Members of this House that Government will always be sympathetic towards every community. With regard to the sympathy the Government have shown to the cause of the Anglo-Indian and European education this year, I may say, Sir, that when this House passed a resolution to remit the fees of poor girls in all Indian schools up to the third form, the Government on the representation of Mr. Davis adopted the same proposal with regard to the schools belonging to the Anglo-Indian and European communities and have provided Rs. 44,000 in this year's budget.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar wanted that the claims of the depressed class Christians should not be overlooked by Government. As things stand at present except for some educational concessions which are looked after by the Director of Public Instruction, the Labour Department has been looking after the welfare of the depressed class Christians in the matter of assignment of lands and also in the matter of the grant of house-sites, etc.

"What I intend to tell my hon. Friend is that, whatever may be the agency the Government may employ in order to carry on the work of ameliorating the condition of the depressed classes, whether it be the Labour Commissioner or the Director of Public Instruction, the claims of the depressed class Christians will not be overlooked. As things stand at present, except in the matter of educational concessions, both the Hindu depressed classes and 4 p.m.

the Christian depressed classes share the amenities of the Labour Department. It has been said that the activities of the Labour Department have not been growing more rapidly. I may just remind the House that the Labour Department came into existence in 1920 when work for the amelioration of the depressed classes was started in Tanjore, Godavari and Chingleput districts. From that time we have been extending the work of this department every year in some district or other. In 1921 we extended its work to Chidambaram taluk of South Arcot; in 1923-24 to the whole of South Arcot and to the districts of Kistna, Guntur, Bellary, Trichinopoly and South Kanara; in 1924-25 to the City of Madras. In 1925 we appointed an honorary Labour Officer in Malabar for ameliorating the condition of the depressed classes in that district; afterwards in 1926-27 the work was extended to Nellore and North Arcot districts; in 1927-28 the work was extended to Anantapur, West Godavari and Cuddapah districts and this year it is proposed to extend the work to Tinnevelly, Coimbatore and Kurnool.

" Thus we have already extended the work of this department to sixteen districts and we propose next year to extend it to three more districts and we also intend to bring Malabar district under a salaried District Labour Officer. We think that the work there is so great that it is not possible for an honorary District Labour Officer to cope with it. Therefore it has been decided as has been desired by many hon. Members of this House that the work should be entrusted to a salaried officer in Malabar. It has been said by one hon. Member that one District Labour Officer will not be sufficient for Malabar. I can assure the House that after gaining some more experience if we find that more than one officer is required the Government will not shirk to perform that duty.

" Some hon. Members belonging to the depressed classes complained that their members did not get many appointments under Government. I would like to assure this House that nothing will give Government greater pleasure than to appoint members of the depressed classes to high and responsible posts. Government have already taken steps to see that encouragement is given to members of the depressed classes provided they are qualified. As a matter of fact, last year when an important post in the Labour Commissioner's office, viz., the Personal Assistant to the Labour Commissioner fell vacant, Government took steps to appoint a member of the depressed classes to that post.

" My hon. Friend Mr. L. C. Guruswami brought forward to the notice of this House certain difficulties which the community experienced in Madurantakam and Ponneri. I am sure if he brings it to the notice of the Commissioner of Labour the matter will be looked into. He also complained that nothing has been done for building houses for his community in Pulianthope. The difficulty is that the lands on which the houses are to be built belongs to the Military department and we have applied to the Government of India for securing it.

" It has been said that we spend too much in connexion with the motor vehicle traffic work. I find from the answer that I gave to this hon. House day before yesterday that the expenditure throughout the whole year amounts to about Rs. 3,27,000, whereas the income is about Rs. 7,74,000. Therefore our expenditure is less than half the income.

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"It has also been stated that we are not appointing more bus inspectors. Again I refer to the answer which I gave the day before yesterday in which I named the districts in which bus inspectors had been appointed. We have appointed up to this time bus inspectors for fifteen districts and the question of appointing them for more districts is under consideration."

Hon. Members :—"Non-Indians ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Both Indians and non-Indians.

"Sir, reference has been made to the reorganization scheme of the City Police. This time last year a number of questions were asked about the better regulation of motor traffic in the City of Madras. At that time we found the number of accidents were growing in the city. The Government drew the attention of the Commissioner of Police and he after going into the question came to the conclusion that the whole of the motor vehicle traffic in the city should be put under a Deputy Commissioner. Taking that standpoint he thought that, for the purpose of making the work more efficient, the whole of the City Police should be reorganized. Therefore he proposed that there should be a Deputy Commissioner in charge of traffic, one for law and order and one for crime. The reason is that the police force which suited the conditions of Madras about twenty years ago is no longer able to cope with the work now on account of the fact that the city has grown in every direction. We all know that Mambalam has been added to the City of Madras. (Laughter). Further the problem of motor vehicle traffic is becoming more and more complex and the proposals put forward by the Commissioner of Police have been accepted by the Government. I may say, Sir, when the scheme of reorganization comes into force, the subordinate staff will get a much-needed relief (Cries : Indians also, Sir ?). They will get one day off duty every seven days. They will get one night duty for every three nights whereas at present they have to work two nights out of three nights. As I said, Sir, the conditions which existed about twenty years ago in Madras no longer do so at present, and we therefore find it necessary to reorganize the City Police force."

Hon. Members :—"Will the constable get more pay ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Sir, when the reorganization scheme comes into force we will have a more efficient and contented police force in Madras."

Hon. Members :—"What about racial disparity ? Will Europeans get more and Indians less ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"With regard to the high principle and the sermon preached by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar to the Indian members of the Reserved half, all that I say is I wish he had remembered those high principles when he was a Member of Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Why don't you do better than him ?"

* The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Mr. President, Sir, as usual I must restrain my eloquence as I am sure everybody is waiting to hear the hon. the Finance Member (laughter). I do not wish that they should waste their time listening to me. I will therefore only briefly touch upon those points where I think there seems to be some misapprehension or lack of

knowledge of exact facts, and not deal with matters which have been previously debated or of whose present position everybody in this House is perfectly well aware.

"Taking the subjects which come under the head of Revenue, I have noted that one hon. Member of the House made reference to the punctuality with which collections of revenue were being enforced in his particular district. Now, Sir, it may be that the kistbandi or the dates fixed for the payment of various instalments may not be quite appropriate or convenient and that they should be revised. But when the best arrangement practicable has been made, I would urge strongly that it is not good administration nor a kindness to the people to be lax in the collection of revenue on the dates on which it is due. Anyway the ryots have to pay the revenue, and it is no use keeping arrears hanging over their heads if they are to be collected at all.

"Another hon. Member referred to the case of village officers in Zamindari tracts. I am glad that he did so because it is a matter which has been under the consideration of the Government for some time and I should be very glad indeed to explore any suggestions which are calculated to enable Government to increase the salaries of the village officers without adding to the burden of the general tax-payer. His actual suggestion I am sorry I could not follow—I think it is the Zamindar of Gollapalli—and if he will kindly communicate it to me in writing I shall be greatly obliged to him.

"Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar stated that there was a considerable difference between the cost of the village officers' establishment now and that which the Government undertook they would work up to. He put it that it was according to the old figures Rs. 119 lakhs and according to the present figures Rs. 96 lakhs, and he pointed out therefore that there was a considerable difference which could be used for raising their salaries. I am sorry but he has omitted to include the salaries of talaiyaris. The Rs. 96 lakhs referred to do not include the pay of talaiyaris which comes to Rs. 26·6 lakhs. The total cost of the village establishments is Rs. 122·60 lakhs as compared with Rs. 119 lakhs which was the figure when I made the statement to which he referred. We have therefore not got this difference to spend. If we had, I would only be too happy to spend it in increasing salaries of the village staff. We are trying to find money if we can to meet the demands of village officers, but as I said on previous occasions, as far as we have examined the figures, the prospect is not bright.

"Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar further referred to the working of the Forest panchayats and suggested that Government was interfering with them.

4-15 p.m. "If I can say anything in secret here, I may say I am very much in agreement with him on that point and we are at present considering the revision of the standing orders to get rid of such difficulties in the working of the forest panchayats.

"One hon. Member from Tanjore who is not here to-day referred to a small matter about the collection of fees on nattam lands. I can assure him that such fees are charged not to obtain money but to prevent, or to act as a deterrent to, the bigger ryots appropriating a large share of the nattam at the expense of their smaller neighbours. Whether it has been effective for that purpose I do not know. I judge, from what he said, that it has not.

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"I now come to the subject of irrigation and there the first matter which was the subject of complaint was that there was no provision in the budget for the Tungabhadra project and that no information had been given regarding the progress of investigation. In answer to questions put yesterday and to-day information has been given as to the progress of the investigation and also as to the provision in the budget. The investigation of the matter is being pushed on; but it is a very large business and we cannot make definite statements that the project will be started at this place or that until we have the result of the investigation now being made.

"As regards Mettur and the distribution of water from the Mettur project which is a subject of great interest to most of the hon. Members of this House, the position of the Government is briefly that they would be very glad to distribute the area of supply so as to secure that as many districts as possible are benefited by it. But they will have to consider what it will cost to effect that supply, and what rate should be charged to enable that cost to be recovered. A special Engineering establishment has been appointed to make these detailed investigations and to prepare estimates and on them the Government must decide which schemes they will approve and which will be too costly.

"Connected with that subject are the suggestions made regarding the works at Kattalai. There are several projects there for the extension of irrigation, one of which is connected with the Mettur project while the others are not. The first project is to extend the southern bank canal—Uyyakondan channel—and irrigate large areas at the tail end of the existing channel. Another is to irrigate an additional area of some 9,000 or 10,000 acres by a high level channel taking off from the south bank canal. There is still another project, and that is connected with Mettur, which is to dig a canal from some place near Kattalai to irrigate an area of some 30,000 acres. All these schemes need careful investigation and plans and estimates. The charge that is brought against the Government is that they laid the foundation stone before such plans and estimates were ready. I cannot do anything but plead guilty to that charge. My extenuation must be that it was done in a spirit of optimism induced by the enthusiasm of the Members of those districts. We hope that the enthusiasm will be justified by the result but we cannot decide on the execution of all or any of these works until we have seen exactly what they involve from an engineering and financial point of view.

"Mention was made of the Thoppur project in Salem. I received the Engineering report of that project this week. I am sorry to say that it is not a very hopeful one; but without going further into the details—which I have had no time to do—I cannot say more about it just at present. The next is not an irrigation matter; but I may mention here the question of the Padne Bar. We had plans and estimates prepared by the Harbour Engineer to Government as to what would be necessary to cure the consequences of what some misguided people have done there. The amount was rather high and we asked the Public Works Department to examine these rates and let the Government know whether the work could be done for anything less. We are awaiting their report and on receipt of it, the Government will have to decide whether they can contribute anything from the public funds or not.

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" An hon. Member from Tanjore made, what I think was, I do not say unreasonable—but ungrateful—complaint that nothing had been done by the Irrigation department in that district. I have in my hand here a list of works which have been completed within the last four years and the total cost of all these works carried out for the improvement of the Cauvery delta was Rs. 19 49 lakhs. These works have been completed and works are now in progress which will cost Rs. 5·69 lakhs. In addition to that, provision has been made in the budget for an Engineering division to investigate the re-modelling and re-sluicing of the channels and rivers in the delta which will be necessary when the present system of the water coming down in floods is replaced by a steady flow from the Mettur reservoir.

" Another hon. Member said that nothing had been done in regard to minor irrigation works in the Kurnool district. I do not think he could have looked into the matter when he made that statement, because the amount of money spent on minor irrigation works in Kurnool in 1926-27 was about Rs. 28,000, in 1927-28 Rs. 49,000 ; and, whereas the number of minor irrigation works repaired in the whole Presidency was 8·6 per cent of the total, in Kurnool it was 22 per cent. The Government would like, no doubt, to do more but I do not think it is open to the charge of having neglected minor irrigation works in Kurnool district.

" On the general administration I wish to say a few words about the question of communal representation in the services. There were complaints that Muhammadan representation in the services was not adequate. It is in order to meet the demand for communal representation that the Government have proposed the rule by which there should be a communal rotation in recruitment and I would urge that it would not be just for the Government to do more than that or to apply the communal idea so as to deny the promotion of those who have served them well.

" In conclusion, Sir, I would thank Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar for his complimentary reference to me. His modesty has prevented him from saying at the same time that, in all matters that I have been able to do, I have received much assistance from his sincere advocacy of the ryot's point of view and his diligence in pressing their claims."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand that there is an understanding between the leader of the House and the leaders of the Opposition that the sitting may be continued till 5·30 in case the hon. the Finance Member should be unable to finish his speech by 5 p.m."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Mr. President, we are at the close of a long and interesting debate which was initiated by the budget speech which I delivered last Tuesday and I am afraid I cannot accept the assumption of my hon. Colleague the Revenue Member that the House is particularly anxious to hear me again. I think we should have been much more contented if he had continued to inform us on those important subjects with which he has to deal. May I say, Sir, that I hope that I shall not trespass to any great extent on the period of grace which the House and you, Sir, have been good enough to permit me?

" To begin with, perhaps it would be ungracious on my part if I do not acknowledge on behalf of the Finance Department the kind references to its work which many hon. Members of this House have been pleased to make. If I may say so, it is a well-earned tribute to the work of Mr. Watson and his

men. One hon. Member went so far as to say that, in his opinion, the Secretariat was, at this time of the year, working under a continued risk of a breakdown. May I say that that remark is justified? For, I know the pressure under which these men have to carry on their duty from day to day from the first day on which budget papers begin to come in? Might I suggest—and here I am giving my personal opinion—that these men have to work under much harder conditions than those who were fortunate enough to be in the Secretariat before the Reforms? In those days the members of the Secretariat, however severe the strain they might have to go through at this season of the year, had at any rate a certain period of relaxation on the hills where they might recover strength, vigour and energy for the following year.

"But, I am not at all sure that it would not promote to the efficiency of the work in the Secretariat if, to some extent at any rate, the privilege of visiting the hills was restored to those servants of the public. I base these remarks on an observation which fell from the lips of Mr. Davis. He, of course, did not look at it from the same point of view. His suggestion, on the other hand, was that the stay of the Government in the hills should be extended, but in that case, under existing conditions, it would mean no relief to these officers. I may say that, so far as I am concerned, I would prefer, if anything were done in the matter, in the first place to see that privilege restored to them. It is not only a great boon to them, but also a great boon to their wives and families. I am inclined to think that nowadays the people of this presidency are beginning to realize that the cool hills are a valuable health resort, of which they themselves have hitherto made very little use and that they are beginning to realize that they form a great asset. At any rate, I think they are resorting to hill stations and making use of them to a much greater extent than they did even a few years ago. May I also say that, in referring to the Secretariat Departments, I did not wish to make any distinction between the Finance Department and others. They all have their time of pressure. After this digression may I proceed to say that the value of the method in which the budget has been prepared and illustrated this year has been amply demonstrated by the fact that there has been a much freer use of the figures in the budget and in the memorandum than has been usual in previous years, and that this has been greatly due to the diagrams to which reference has been made. I would, however, like to say a word on one or two points which apparently are not quite clear. The hon. Member from South Kanara, Mr. Saldanha, could not find in the budget any provision for free quinine. When he made that remark, convinced as I was that it was there, I felt that the rose had fallen from my chaplet; but when he went on to say that he had discovered some reference to it in the Budget Memorandum, I felt that it was an additional feather in Mr. Watson's cap. May I say that the provision is there in the budget. It provides for the distribution of 6,000 lb. of quinine in packet form, free at a cost of Rs. 1,14,000. If the hon. Member from South Kanara wishes to know how much of it is to go to his own district, I must, of course, refer him to the hon. Minister in charge of Public Health. In connexion with this, one point has occurred to me. When I came out to this country, if one got fever, his doctor generally told him to take five grains of quinine, or perhaps to take five grains for three nights before going to bed. Now, I understand that to-day even an ordinary treatment is supposed to contain at least 80 grains, 4-30 p.m.

and only the other day I met a young planter who was returning to the Anamalais, where, as we know, there is a great deal of fever and he informed me that he was undergoing a course of treatment which involved the taking of no less than 1,500 grains in three months. That of course means that the problem of the treatment of fever by quinine has greatly altered and I take it that this increased dosage represents the considered views of experts at the present time. Now, I am quite unable to say to what extent the quinine supplies of the world could provide for the treatment of malaria on that scale ; and it only shows how very complex the problem is. There is a limit to the amount that we can spend on the eradication of any disease, and I think my hon. Colleague the Member for Public Health is proved to have been perfectly right in pressing for the appointment of a malariologist, so that we may by exhaustive investigation know exactly how we stand and how this problem is to be dealt with in future. Apparently prevention may become cheaper than cure.

" Then another point that was referred to, and which was also referred to by my hon. Colleague the Revenue Member, is the fact that there was no provision for the Tungabhadra Project. I think he must have omitted to read the Detailed Irrigation Budget where it will be found on page 13 that no less than Rs. 1,52,600 is provided for investigation in 1929-30. If there are any other points on which hon. Members are not quite sure, might I remind them of the standing promise that the Finance Department will try its best to elucidate any problem in connexion with the figures if put before it.

" Now, Sir, I have to turn to one who, while closely connected with, in some ways, stands apart from the Finance Department, that is to say, the Finance Member. So far as he is concerned, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar summed up the positions in his usual robust way by saying that the Finance Member might be congratulated on two things only, one on an unusual measure of good luck and secondly on the possession of an excellent Secretariat. That, Sir, I have already admitted and now, Sir, while I may hope to retain the services of the latter, I am afraid it is not in my power to command the former and that fact must necessarily colour my anticipations and attitude towards the future. In ancient Rome, it was usual to allow slaves one day in the year on which they were at perfect liberty to do what they liked and to say what they liked of their masters. Well, Sir, once a year a similar opportunity comes to the Finance Member when he delivers his Budget speech and takes part in this debate when—of course within certain limits of time and with regard to the traditions of this House —he can say what he likes of his hon. Colleagues. Several Members have commented on the fact that this year he has used his privilege perhaps more freely than usual. Some indeed, I think, have been inclined to import into my speech rather more than was intended, and to cross the t's and dot the i's to an extent which perhaps I hardly anticipated. Anything I have said pales before the criticisms contained in the 60 and odd speeches to which we have listened during the last three days. To that I do not think my hon. Colleagues would object and, if I may say so, in those speeches there was much with which I agreed, much with which possibly I disagreed, and again much that seemed to me to deserve very careful consideration. At any rate they contain such mixed feeding for my hon. Colleagues ; there are, if I may say so, ' thorns for

the camel and fodder for the kine'. It is not for me of course to attempt to distinguish between the camel and the kine. May I suggest that in spite of all these criticisms that might be hurled against them, my hon. Colleagues have a policy, though this has been disputed by one or two members. Now, when I stated that the Government had a policy, I meant that the budget placed before the House is not a mere fortuitous concourse of atoms but that it is based on definite aims and on the adoption of definite methods by which to achieve these aims. I do not suggest that there can be no controversy as to whether the aims are good or as to whether the methods adopted are sound but it seems to me that after hearing their defence, the House will be more ready now to agree with me and that even behind what seems most liable to criticism are a definite policy and aims. I should be glad on this occasion to go further into matters which some of my hon. Colleagues referred to, but time does not permit, and there are other high-ways and by-ways which I should like to explore, such as the paradox announced by my hon. Friend from Coimbatore, namely that moral instruction is an incentive to crime. I must, however, confine my remarks mainly to the few points which concern Finance. I do not propose to refer once more, or to add to what I have said on previous occasions as to the inconsistency of urging a reduction of revenue combined with an increased expenditure, for I am quite aware of the exigencies and the conventions so to speak of the situation. On two points, which are general than financial, perhaps I may be allowed to make one or two remarks. The hon. Member from Rajahmundry complained of the poor provision for irrigation. I think, he forgot that after all we are providing a very large sum for Mettur and that the total amount that we can provide for irrigation must depend on the commitments at the time. But, as a matter of fact, excluding Mettur, the provision under the Revenue Budget for irrigation expenditure is $54\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs, no less than two lakhs over the revised estimate for the current year.

" While referring to Mettur may I suggest to hon. Members of this House that while criticism is perfectly legitimate they should bear in mind that in the construction of this scheme are engaged a number of Indian officers and subordinates, who, perhaps in future years, will be called upon to take an important part in the construction of other large irrigation schemes in this Presidency like a Tungabhadra project, a Bhavani project, or a Kistna project which, it is hoped, will come into being in a not distant future. I would ask them to remember that if it is continually suggested that they are engaged in a work for which there is no justification and from which there is no hope that benefit will accrue—this is likely to have a depressing effect on them. The conditions at Mettur are not altogether easy. The work is hard; these men have to deal with unfamiliar machinery and have to lead a strenuous life. I think a great deal of this criticism might be otherwise put or directed into other channels, even if it does not, diminishin volume, if we remember the fact that men engaged in a work in which they ought to take a just pride are likely to be more sensitive to criticism than we who are here and more able to understand and to construe it. 4-45 p.m.

" Another point raised to which I wish to refer is the employment of contractors. I have been advocating the larger use of private contractors. I do think the time is come when we ought to be able to depend much more largely than we were hitherto, on really large and competent firms of contractors,

[Mr. T. E. Moir] [2nd March 1929

For I do not altogether appreciate or approve the process by which everything is sought to be carried out by a direct Government agency. The more complaints are raised against Government and its inefficiency the more they are called on to undertake fresh responsibilities. In this respect I do hope that an experienced engineering profession, independent of Government, will grow up to assist us in carrying into effect future schemes and I hope such participation will assume much more importance in the future than it has in the past. I am glad to say that something has been done in that direction already. I asked for the figures and I find that whereas in 1924-25 only 33 works had been given out in contract, in 1927-28, 353 works were so treated. I have not been able so far to get further figures illustrative of this somewhat bald statement.

"Perhaps I might now remove a misapprehension with reference to a particular item to which Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar referred, namely, the provision of Rs. 85,000 made for the incoming Governor. He seemed to think that this threw some light on the question as to who would hold that high office. May I explain that the matter is quite simple, that in the current year's budget a provision was made as it was anticipated that it would be required, but as it is now known that it is not required this year it has been transferred to the budget of the coming year in which persumably it will have to be utilized.

"Turning now to the general financial position the most important point in the budget is of course the provision for the reduction of debt. I feel some gratification that that provision has received the general approval of the House, and especially the approval of those Members who are connected with business. I do not think that the case for that reduction of debt could have been put more clearly and more succinctly than it was by the hon. Member from Coimbatore. And as far as I can gather, it received the entire approval of Mr. Gopal Menon and also of Mr. Hearson.

"Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar has in fact suggested that we ought not to have borrowed from the Government of India the sum required even for the Mettur project but met it also from balances. There is one difficulty about Mettur. We borrow from the Government of India under special terms. In the case of ordinary loans they are liquidated in fifteen equated annual instalments. But in the case of Mettur, we pay only simple interest every year and the repayment of the principal will not commence until the work begins to be productive; and when it does, the principal will be repaid in instalments spread over seventy years.

"One hon. Member indeed complained that what we have done is to redeem debt which ought justly to be borne by posterity. Now that is a criticism against us which might validly be urged if instead of borrowing we paid for the Mettur project from current revenues instead of leaving posterity to bear its fair share of the burden.

"Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar also asked me from what time we paid interest on our borrowings and how our borrowings are arranged. May I say, that when we approach the Government of India for a loan, from the date at our disposal we work out our anticipations as to the dates on which the money will be required and we ask the Government of India to let us have it in a number of instalments; in accordance with the amounts actually required at different periods throughout the year. One fraction may be required

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now, another three months hence and a third later on, and so on. We have, of course, to let them know beforehand. But we do not begin to pay interest on an instalment until the instalment is actually taken up. And the interest for the year is adjusted on the last day of the year. It is of course not always easy to anticipate exactly the date on which a certain amount will be required; but we attempt as far as possible to anticipate the situation."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" If you need no money at the time, what do you do with it ?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" We have to take the loan ; and in such cases we use it for some other connected purpose, if not for the exact purpose it was originally intended ; for example where several municipalities have asked us to borrow for us ; if one municipality cannot take up its loan another will take it up ; and we adjust our borrowings as far as possible in this way.

" Mr. Narayana Raju also referred to the question of Mettur which I have attempted to explain. He asked also why it was we are repaying the outstanding balances of loans on which we pay only five per cent interest. He asked ' why not redeem those on which we are paying $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ? ' Sir I do not think I will betraying any secret when I say that in the innocence of our hearts we made this very suggestion to the Government of India. (Laughter.) The Government of India coldly pointed out that while it would be advantageous for us to repay these loans they would have to continue to pay interest at the higher rate on the money they had borrowed for our purposes and that even if we repaid the principal, our obligation to pay the higher rate of interest would remain. The House will recognize that it was not unnatural that they declined to extend their benevolence towards us to that extent. (Laughter.)

" The hon. Member also suggested that it was a mistake to repay this sum because he anticipated that the rate at which the Government of India would have to borrow in future would go up to six per cent ; because they could not get money for less. I do not know on what ground he bases these anticipations except that he seems to me to be in a generally pessimistic mood. There I am somewhat beyond my depth, but if there is that possibility, or probability, or contingency, surely the hon. Finance Member of the Government of India would not have drawn attention in his recent budget speech and that with satisfaction to the fact that India is able to borrow money at 5 per cent in the world's market, where Japan has to pay 6 per cent, if he anticipated that that advantage would now disappear.

" The diagram in the Budget memorandum has prominently and clearly brought to the notice of the House the fact that the gap between our revenue and expenditure which flattened our revenue resources is disappearing and many members have asked what about the future. The hon. Member Mr. Hearson voiced that feeling when he expressed the hope that when the surplus money is spent, Government would not find themselves unable to stop the annual rise in expenditure. That is a real danger ; it is not immediate but it is latent.

" And again using that freedom which comes to me on this occasion 5 p.m. may I say just one word which may reach the ears of the departments of the Government that expenditure cannot continue on the upward grade shown in the last few years, (Hear, hear), and that the time when departments can

put forward 400 or 500 schemes which require the attention of the Finance Committee in connection with the budget over and above other existing commitments, has passed, that is to say, unless some entirely unanticipated event occurs to make our revenues expand at a more rapid upward rate than they at present display. As one hon. Member speaking in regard to Public Works very sensibly stated, it would be necessary for us to liquidate more of our existing commitments before we undertake fresh ones. With that hon. Member's opinion I entirely agree. Perhaps, Sir in conclusion, I might say one word with reference to the remarks of the hon. the Leader of the Swarajya party, and may I say, Sir, that I do so, not in any carping or hostile spirit but merely in the hope that he will be willing to listen to considerations which he may yet find pressing and unavoidable. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition claims that they represent the popular aspirations and the needs and desires of the country. I am not here concerned to challenge that but if I were to accept his assumption that those needs and aspirations and desires are represented to-day by Members of his party, may I tell him that if, as they hope it may perhaps happen that in the fairly near future it will be one of those Members who will stand here (Hear, hear), to defend a budget or the policy underlying it, he will be under the very difficult task of attempting to frame a budget on the basis of certain revenue resources which are to disappear entirely, of some which have to remain stationary, and of others which are to be reduced. At the same time he will have to face demands largely in excess of those which departments now make. In my budget speech I referred to my appreciation of the intensity of the demand that certain needs should be met. Nothing that has fallen from speakers on the benches opposite justifies me in assuming I have over estimated the intensity of those demands, and he will have to attempt to meet those demands from resources which are either not growing or are disappearing. Now, if I may put it in familiar language, when these chickens come home to roost, I hope that it will not be possible for the Finance Member of that day to say that he finds any of my birds on his perch. I cannot foresee the future in that respect, but I can only give this assurance to all parties, that so long as I remain here to be responsible in any way for the finances of this Presidency, I shall endeavour to ensure that nothing that I may do or consent to do, shall increase the difficulties which my successor, possibly a few years hence may have to face. As far as I am concerned, I shall continue to attempt to ensure economy and to protest against any measure which to my mind seems to take us towards the downward path to insolvency. As it happens, my own experience in this province has given me sufficient insight into the conditions that arise when a province or a Government has been struggling under incipient insolvency. I have no wish to undertake or to experience the same conditions again, and still less have I any desire when I vacate office, to leave the possibility of such conditions recurring as a legacy to my successor." (Cheers).

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 11th March 1929.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.